



MOOOOVE-IN DAY

Bernard Laarveld, professor of animal and poultry science, checks on the university's dairy herd July 22, the day the cows were moved into the new Rayner Dairy Research and Teaching Facility. Laarveld worked for 10 years on the barn project, from initial concept to opening, and with the herd now settled in, he is turning his attention to future possibilities for the facility. Read more about the Rayner facility below.



LIAM RICHARDS

New dairy facility opens

Rayner barn serves students, research, ag sectors

COLLEEN MACPHERSON

Early on the morning of July 22, a stock trailer backed up to the Rayner Dairy Research and Teaching Facility. The trailer door swung open and, under the watchful eye of dairy unit manager Marlene Fehr and her staff, the first dozen of the university's 70-plus dairy cows stepped tentatively into their new home.

Standing off to the side, carefully observing the animals sniff around (cows have a keen sense of smell) and listening to them vocalize concern about their new environment (cows don't like change), was Bernard Laarveld, professor of animal and poultry science. Seeing the herd arrive was, he said later, a moment of pure joy.

It was also a relief because this is a project that has been a long time coming. It was 10 years ago when Laarveld, as then head of the Department of Animal

“ A new facility like this really gets the creative juices flowing.

Bernard Laarveld

and Poultry Science, received a delegation of Saskatchewan dairy producers and listened to their proposal for a new dairy facility at the U of S, a research barn that would reflect state-of-the-art industry standards.

The producers even agreed to support the idea financially. Each dairy producer in Saskatchewan contributed the equivalent of \$25,000 in milk quota – a total of about \$4 million – to the operation of the \$11.5-million teaching and research barn.

“Many times I was afraid it looked like the facility wasn't

going to happen,” said Laarveld, looking back over 10 years, “but we were just stubborn. There's also a bit of luck in the sense that you always have to be in a constant state of planning because if an opportunity comes along, you have to be ready. In the end, we had the right model that was closely linked to public education.”

That model drew broad support, from the university and from the Agriculture Council of Saskatchewan which funded the concept development and a needs assessment. That assessment was “the foundation of a clear understanding of what it was we wanted and why it is important for producers in this province, and in Canada,” said Laarveld.

Other producer groups came on board. Contributions from the canola and flax sectors “solidified the vision that the (dairy) unit is here to serve all

of agriculture,” he said. “We view the crop sector as a client because of the importance of feed research.”

Service sector members like banks followed, as did machinery deals and private donations. Funding for the project was

completed with contributions from the university, the College of Agriculture and Bioresources as well as the federal and provincial governments.

The result is a facility that

See *Students*, Page 2



Dairy unit staff guide cows into the Rayner facility.

LIAM RICHARDS

Students, public see modern dairy operation

From Page 1

features cattle housing much superior to the university's old dairy barn. When all the barn's systems are in use (the cows are being gradually introduced to the technology to ease the stress), computerized feeders will provide real-time monitoring of on-demand feeding, and milk production data will be collected automatically rather than manually from both the conventional milking parlour and a milk robot system that will soon be operational.

Laarveld said the data collection systems open many new research opportunities in a number of areas – nutrition,

health, reproduction, fertility, genetics. "And we have enough room to do more research. A new facility like this really gets the creative juices flowing."

Even the little extras in the barn like the self-activated grooming brushes are of interest to those studying how animals cope with stress, he said. He added some of the younger cows have already learned that if they use the brushes and then lay down right beneath them, no other cows can get a turn. "As Marlene (Fehr) says, cows can be just like a bunch of kids," said Laarveld with a laugh.

Not only is the facility a boon for research but it will mean enhanced experiential

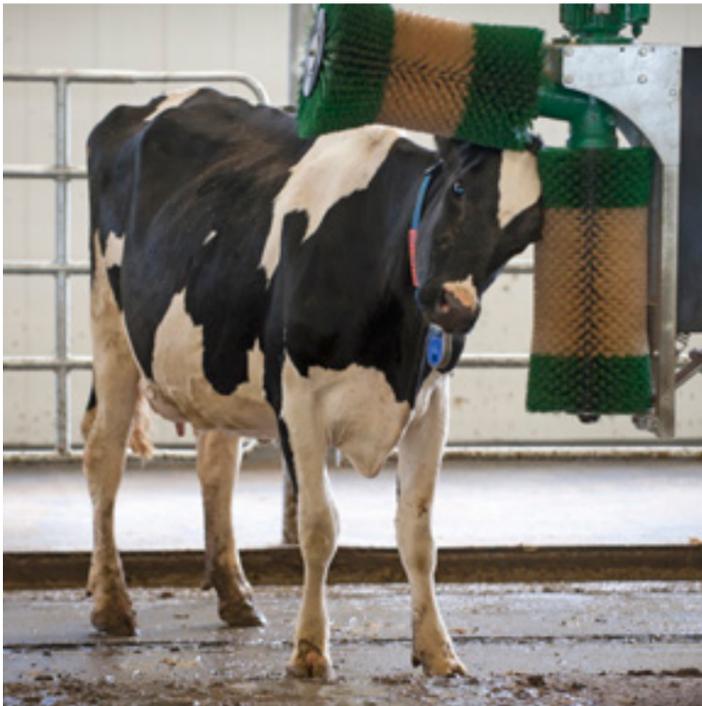
learning for U of S students in a number of disciplines.

"What we had in the old barn was 1960s technology. In this new facility, we'll be training our students with today's equipment for today's jobs."

A key feature of the Rayner facility is its attention to public education, said Laarveld. The soon-to-be-completed Feeding the World visitor gallery will highlight the role of Saskatchewan agriculture in global food production. It will also explain dairy production, and an overhead walkway will give visitors a bird's eye view of the facility, milking parlour and milk robot.

Like any new building, the Rayner facility had a few bugs that had to be worked out but overall, the transition for the herd went smoothly. Laarveld said he visited the barn just two days after the animals were moved in and he found the majority of them lying down in the stalls and ruminating, and that is "a good sign." He gave a lot of credit to the dairy unit staff who, while learning new routines and technology themselves, "are so good at handling our animals. They certainly have a stabilizing effect."

With plans in the works for an official opening in October, Laarveld has turned his attention to the next phases of the Rayner facility, including networking the dairy operation into research and teaching programs locally, nationally and internationally.



Some cows are particularly fond of the grooming brushes. LIAM RICHARDS

With the opening of the Rayner Dairy Research and Teaching Facility, the university will move to expand its dairy herd to 100 lactating animals.

The herd was maintained at 55 animals for many years but that number was increased to 70 in anticipation of the new facility, explained Bernard Laarveld, professor of animal and poultry science. The herd is closed for biosecurity reasons, meaning no outside animals are allowed; only the calves of existing cows become part of herd. Laarveld said the herd should number 100 lactating cows by the end of the calendar year.

And for those interested in the university's milk production: the cows are milked three times a day every day with a daily production of about 39 kg each. That means the herd produces about 1.4 million kg of milk a year. The proceeds from the sale of the milk go to support the operating budget.

Then there are the possibilities that come with green technologies like solar heating systems and rainwater recovery. But Laarveld's primary interest is the bio-energy potential of

manure and waste. He understands most people view manure as an unpleasant byproduct of animal operations "but I look at things as opportunities, not as problems." ■

Campus Incidents

Report all information about these and other incidents to Campus Safety at 306-966-5555.

Aug. 19-26

Tickets

- 1 for a learner driving unaccompanied
- 1 for driving an unregistered vehicle
- 1 for using an electronic communication device while driving
- 1 for driving on the left side of a median
- 1 for speeding
- 2 for disobeying a traffic sign

Events of Note

- A window was broken in the Little Stone Schoolhouse on Aug. 21, though there was no evidence to suggest it was malicious. No entry was gained to the building.
- A vehicle was damaged and money removed while it was parked in the Stadium Parkade Aug. 22. There are no suspects.
- A bicycle was stolen from the bike racks in front of Seager Wheeler residence sometime between Aug. 12 and Aug. 23.
- A caretaker in St. Andrew's College was confronted by a male subject she discovered in the building around 6 pm on Aug. 23. When discovered, he yelled at the caretaker, who could not understand what he was saying. He ran out of the building shortly afterward. The individual is described as male, dark complexion, bald, 5'10", thin and was seen at the time wearing sunglasses on top his head, dark blue shorts, white t-shirt and a blue backpack.

ON ON CAMPUS NEWS

On Campus News is published 18 times per year by University of Saskatchewan Marketing and 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.

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On Campus News aims to provide a forum for the sharing of timely news, information and opinions about events and issues of interest to the U of S community.

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

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in the Bowl

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Door prizes to be won!

Changes to Open Studies will benefit distinct student cohorts

COLLEEN MACPHERSON

Described by its designated dean as “neither fish nor fowl,” Open Studies is about to undergo a significant change to ensure the best possible outcome for the students registered under its banner.

Gordon DesBrisay, associate dean of student affairs in the College of Arts and Science, said Open Studies was the academic home last year of about 500 students who fall into two distinct groups—explorer or casual students, part-time learners who wish to take classes at the U of S without committing to a degree program; and college students who are required to discontinue (RTD) and are academically at risk. A proposal to disestablish Open Studies recognizes that the current structure cannot capitalize on the potential growth in the desirable cohort of casual learners, nor can it meet the

“A key message here is that we’re not in any way backing away from part-time students.”

Gordon DesBrisay

academic needs of RTD students. University Council approved that proposal at its June meeting.

“A key message here is that we’re not in any way backing away from part-time students,” said DesBrisay. “It’s our historic mission to be accessible to the people of Saskatchewan ... and we want to promote the option of part-time study at an institutional level.”

But he described Open Studies as “an unproductive option” for RTD students who, instead of leaving the university for a year, can enroll in Open Studies. The aim is for them to take classes through Open

Studies, improve their grades and return to a degree-granting program.

“So we show them the door by RTDing them but suddenly say ‘Or you can go to the basement.’ Nobody wants to hang out in the basement. It’s limbo. We need to help them get outside or help them stay and succeed.”

The proposal, which still requires approval of University Senate in October and the Board of Governors in December, would see Open Studies continue as an admission category for casual students but administrative responsibility for that cohort would devolve to the colleges.



DesBrisay

The colleges would accept the students in either the non-degree or provisional category of admission. Either way, casual students would have full access to college support services currently unavailable to them in Open Studies.

For RTD students, continuing full-time study through Open Studies would no longer be an option, DesBrisay explained. Instead, colleges would be responsible for identifying at-risk students “and helping them stay and succeed, or helping them leave with a plan to return. This forces both parties to have a concentrated think about this—the students about whether they really want to stay and the colleges about taking responsibility for the decision to RTD.”

Often, students have a backstory that could be the basis for an appeal of an RTD decision, which is made strictly based on

grades, said DesBrisay. With the elimination of the Open Studies option, efforts must be made to ensure college appeal processes are known and that college staff is proactive in reaching at-risk students.

DesBrisay added that extensive data collected by Open Studies staff show that fewer than one quarter of RTD students manage to raise their academic average enough to be readmitted to a college. But that is not for want of trying on the part of staff, he said.

He spoke highly of Lucille Otero, Open Studies co-ordinator, and Sandra Ritchie, manager of student central support services, whose abilities “left no question that we weren’t trying hard enough. We had a long, hard look at our structures and they weren’t very efficient in terms of serving students.”

As the disestablishment process unfolds, DesBrisay said Open Studies staff and their counterparts in the colleges will work to ensure a smooth transition for all involved.

The change will also mean the dissolution by May 1, 2014 of the Open Studies Faculty Council, a group composed of representatives from all colleges with an interest in Open Studies students. And it will mean the end of DesBrisay’s time as designated dean.

“Yes, I’m the last of a long and distinguished line but I’ve got lots to do in my day job.” ■

Veterinary centre offers staff, student discount

The Western College of Veterinary Medicine’s Veterinary Medical Centre (VMC) is looking to increase its caseload, to support its operations and its teaching program; the more clients who walk through the door, the greater the variety of cases its students will be exposed to. And it is looking to the U of S community to help.

Dr. Duncan Hockley, director of the VMC, said a discount for services that, prior to July 1, was only available to college staff and students has been extended to include all U of S employees and students. The 10 per cent discount applies to all professional services, he explained, with the exception of drugs and lab tests, but requires a valid student or staff card from the University of Saskatchewan.

The VMC will offer the discount for companion animals—dogs, cats, parrots—and for large animals that are brought to the hospital, he said. And because the centre’s operation includes the college’s field service—veterinarians who travel to where the large animals are—“if you have 10 cows on your farm, it (the discount) will be available for that service too.”

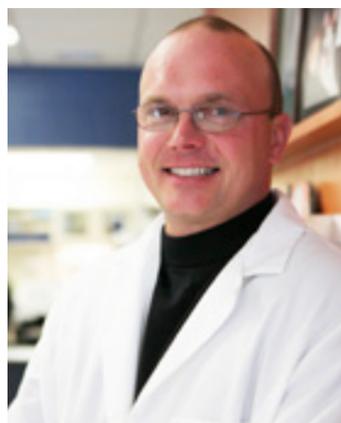
Hockley explained the VMC is open to the public and offers 24-hour emergency service. It currently handles more than 17,000 cases per

year, about half of which are referrals from across western Canada. “But the more active the hospital is, the more we can invest in new services and equipment. We’re also looking to engage a bit more with the campus community.”

The VMC has more than 120 support staff, more than 60 faculty “and a multitude of interns, residents and students” to deal with patients. It is a busy facility but Hockley pointed out Saskatoon has the highest number of veterinary clinics per capita in Canada “so we have to be competitive in terms of cost and the quality of service we offer.”

Hockley added the VMC “also wants to increase our caseload where we see healthy patients.” There is a growing number of wellness programs

being offered to a variety of user groups like owners of puppies, adult and geriatric animals and even those with animals that have weight problems. ■



Hockley

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Summer school



✍ PATRICK HAYES, U OF S ARCHIVES

U of S Archives, ASM-5

Pictured here are the faculty and students for the 1919 Summer School. Five years earlier, the Department of Education arranged for teacher summer courses to be taught on campus. Courses specifically for teachers included Agriculture, Household Science, Elementary Science, Art with Manual Training, Nature Study with School Gardening and Physical Training. Special certificates were issued to those holding valid teachers’ certificates upon completion of the courses. Students who passed the senior matriculation (high school) could in three summer and two winter sessions complete all the work required for the BA or BSc degree. Fees for a teacher’s course were \$2 while degree courses were \$9. Accommodation was provided on campus with the Department of Education paying the return rail fare for those teachers who satisfactorily completed a course. Recreation included tennis, football, basketball and swimming. Students were “urged to take advantage of whatever opportunities are offered”. ■


NEXT DEADLINE

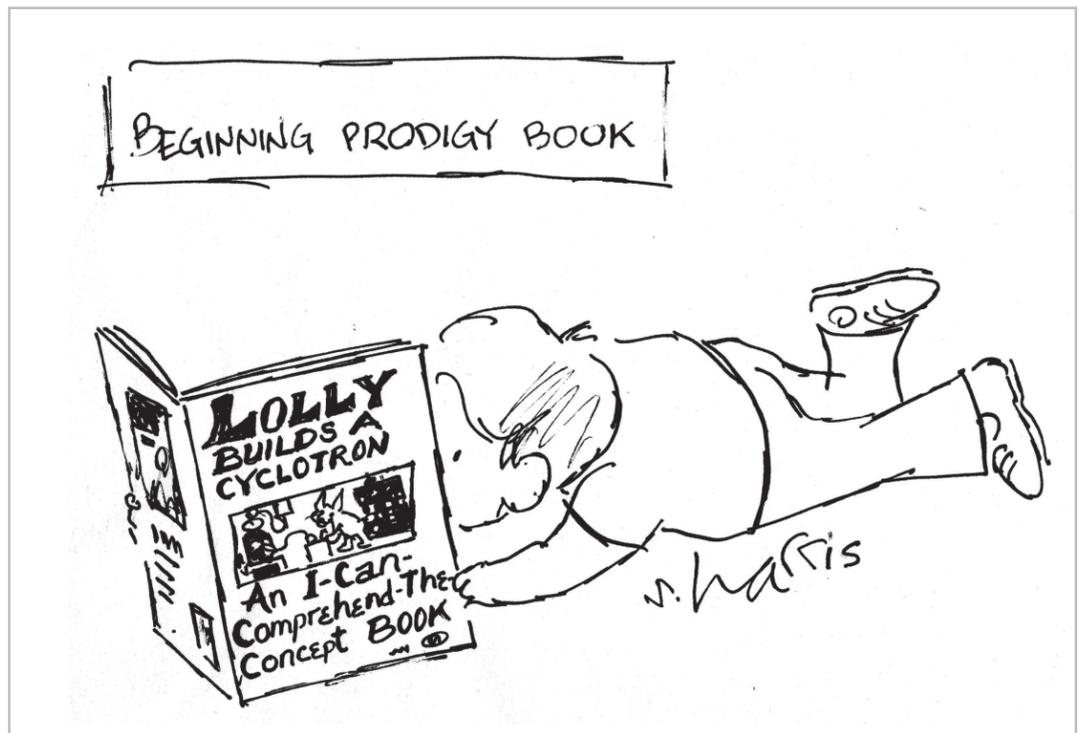
Thursday, September 5, 2013

Send letters and viewpoints to

ocn@usask.ca

Editor's Note

In early July, OCN received for publication the letter below signed by 29 students and one member of University Senate. The same letter was sent to President Ilene Busch-Vishniac, who replied to the group on July 29. With the agreement of all parties, both are printed here. Both letters have also been edited for length, again with the agreement of the writers.



SCIENCECARTOONSPLUS.COM

Students express concern about budget adjustments, TransformUS

When the 2012 provincial budget was released, the University of Saskatchewan received a 2.1 percent increase in its operating grant, about three per cent lower than expected. As a result of this less-than-expected allocation, coupled with increasing operating budget expenditures, the U of S will allegedly have a \$44.5 million operating deficit by 2016, unless something changes.

Letter

To address the projected deficit, the University of Saskatchewan has implemented a multi-pronged operating budget adjustment initiative that includes workforce planning, revenue generation and diversification ventures, and a comprehensive program prioritization process called TransformUS, among other processes.

The TransformUS initiative will rank all academic and support service programs based on a methodology developed by American education consultant Robert Dickeson. Through this process, the university will determine where to increase, maintain or reduce investment in future budgets, with some programs earmarked for elimination.

Since the beginning of the operating budget adjustment initiative, students have raised a number of critiques and concerns to university administration. The first was for student representation on the TransformUS task forces. After the issue was brought to a packed University Council meeting, administration consented to one undergraduate and one graduate student on each task force, while giving no substantive argument

for limiting student participation. This under representation of a critical stakeholder in the TransformUS process is a major flaw within this initiative.

Many students are concerned with the model chosen for TransformUS. The Dickeson model was developed for private, for-profit American educational institutions, and thus advantages revenue-generating programs over others. What do we lose when we transplant this corporate model to a public institution? We lose a culture where higher education is a social good and university is attended for the development of one's mind and society. In its place, university becomes a place of vocational training focused on profit. Programs not immediately and directly related to job preparation—most notably the humanities and arts disciplines—are

de-valued and de-funded. While the task forces have argued that they have adapted Dickeson's model to meet the specific needs of the U of S, the criteria for ranking academic programs remain exactly the same as Dickeson's original criteria.

Students are also concerned about framing of this operating budget adjustment initiative as inevitable while there is a lack of resolve to tackle the root of the problem: too little government funding for post-secondary education. President Ilene Busch-Vishniac has typically responded to questions about the university's efforts to secure sustainable government funding by stating that the U of S' funding situation is quite good relative to our "comparator institutions" (other U15 schools such as the U of A and U of M). However, the U of S has no true compar-

ator institutions when it comes to funding; it is situated in the only province with a "balanced budget." This notable dissimilarity should be taken into account when we discuss what constitutes reasonable funding allocations.

The purpose of TransformUS is to prioritize programming in line with the university's mission, which begins with the statement the "University of Saskatchewan belongs to the people of Saskatchewan." TransformUS and other budget adjustment initiatives seem to be reallocating resources towards resource-generating priorities and into administrative and executive salaries, rather than facilitating an inclusive discussion on our collective priorities as an institution and as people of this province.

 See **Group**, Page 6

President points to need for sustainability in a new funding environment

I wish to begin by thanking you for the recent letter regarding students' voices on the operating budget. It is encouraging seeing our students so actively engaged in a process that is focused on our financial sustainability today and in the future, and more importantly, focusing our resources clearly behind our priorities to build a stronger university for our students, faculty and the residents of Saskatchewan.

Letter

I would like to provide clarity to a few specific comments made in this letter in hopes to open up a dialogue and reduce some of the concern with regards to the process.

As you are aware, the Government of Saskatchewan has asked the university to look for efficiencies in our budget, just as they are looking for efficiencies within their own budget. Reviewing how we use our resources is an important process for us to undertake as an institution funded significantly by taxpayer's dollars. In terms of government funding in 2013-14, we are one of only two provinces with U15 institutions who saw an increase in funding, the other being Manitoba who received a 2.5 per cent increase. Other provincial governments with U15 institutions reduced funding to post-secondary institutions by one to 6.8 percent.

Research conducted by our

office of Institutional Planning and Assessment on provincial operating grant funding per full-time student among our U15 peers, with a focus on western Canadian institutions, shows we are in fact a leader in the amount of funding received per student.

We are fortunate to have a healthy relationship with our provincial government. We will always make the strongest case for the importance of higher education, but we simply cannot count on large increases as we have received in the past. Through operating budget adjustments we will make the permanent changes needed to ensure our continued financial sustainability in this new post-secondary education funding environment that is

impacting all U15 institutions.

TransformUS is one of the projects we expect to make the most impact in terms of reviewing and reallocating our resources. TransformUS is based on the university's learnings from past reviews and prioritization initiatives in the last 22 years (including The President's Committee on Renewal in 1991 and Systematic Program Review in 1999), as well as on exemplary initiatives at other universities. As you have indicated, we are also using the framework of Dickeson's program prioritization, a proven model in resource allocation that has been applied successfully at public and private universities in the U.S. and abroad. I am confident Trans-

formUS will assist us to prioritize our resources effectively in a way that ensures we are able to sustain and grow our priorities. TransformUS is operating via two task forces, both of which have student representation. There is additional student representation on the Operating Budget Adjustments Steering Committee. By contrast, there is intentionally no administrative representation on the TransformUS task forces. Further, while TransformUS will present a report with recommendations, they do not have authority to make decisions. The report will come through our normal governance processes, where students

 See **Goal**, Page 6

Taking cues from humans

✍ MICHAEL ROBIN

Chris Zhang wants to build machines that can understand human emotion to help people make better decisions.

“People have emotions, they react to them and base decisions upon them,” explained Zhang, a professor of mechanical and biomedical engineering. “If machines cannot understand human emotions, communications are compromised.”

Zhang and his team are working to incorporate emotional cues into how people interact with machines. An example is the warning light that comes on when a car is getting low on gas; the light will

prompt some drivers to pull in at the next gas station, while others will decide to put it off until later. There is no emotional cue to tell the driver how urgent the warning is.

“If you could give it an interface that is emotional, it could help make the human take action at the proper time,” Zhang said.

But to deliver the right response, machines need more and better inputs from the human side of the conversation.

To get these inputs, Zhang’s team used cameras and sensors to capture information on blood pressure, heart beat, skin

conductivity (think sweaty palms) and eye movement. For example, rolling the eyes could signify fatigue or exasperation, while a wandering gaze might indicate boredom.

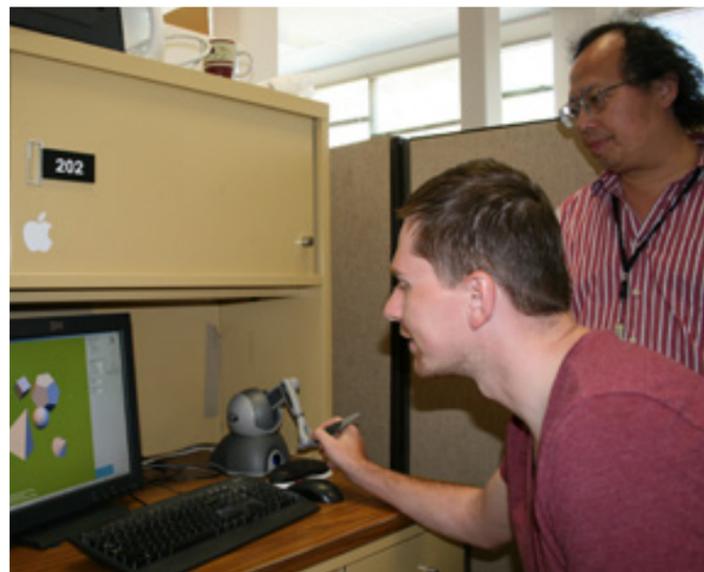
These data are analyzed and interpreted by custom-written computer software to predict human emotions. Zhang said the system can accurately predict a person’s emotional state about 90 per cent of the time.

The work has many potential applications, including physical rehabilitation. One machine in Zhang’s lab has the patient hold the end of a mechanical arm attached to a computer. The person manipulates the mechanical arm to move objects on a computer screen, mimicking a wrist rehabilitation.

Sensors track the patient’s performance and software infers when they are getting frustrated or fatigued.

“If we can understand the emotional state of the patient, we can know this state may significantly disturb the functional performance,” Zhang said.

Now that the researchers have a system that can read a patient’s emotional state, the next step is to create passive and active feedback systems. Zhang uses the analogy of gym equipment: an exercise bike is passive in that the user must decide to pedal while a treadmill is active – the user must keep



Chris Zhang, right, and grad students Dmitriy Chesnakov are working on machines that can interpret emotional cues from humans like this one that is used for wrist rehabilitation. MICHAEL ROBIN

Celebrating 100 years and a Nobel

✍ KIRK SIBBALD

From milk and concrete to state-of-the-art lasers and solar power, the University of Saskatchewan’s Department of Chemistry faculty and alumni have spearheaded scientific progress for the past 100 years. They even have a Nobel Prize to prove it.

The department is launching its centennial year celebrations Sept. 20 and 21 with an array of presentations and an exhibit featuring the Nobel gold medal awarded to alumni and chemist Henry Taube (BSc’35, MSc’37). Taube’s Nobel Prize, along with other personal awards and memorabilia, was donated to the U of S in 2011.

Taube is the only U of S graduate—and first Canadian-born chemist—to win a Nobel Prize, which he received in 1983 for research on the basic mechanisms of chemical reactions and, perhaps most notably, electron-transfer reactions.

“The significance comes from considering that (Taube) was a guy who grew up in small town Saskatchewan, came to the university, was interested in chemistry and went on to what would be the pinnacle of that kind of career,” said Dave Palmer, head of the department.

In addition to the medal, the Taube exhibit will feature memorabilia, photographs and correspondence. Palmer said the correspondence includes rejection letters Taube received after applying for faculty positions in the early 1940s at numerous universities. There is even a rejection letter from the U of S but Palmer explained there was no position available when Taube applied. Taube ended

up teaching at Cornell University, the University of Chicago and Stanford University, where he remained until his death in 2005 at the age of 89.

“To me, it speaks well beyond science,” Palmer said. “It tells people that sort of career trajectory is possible. Much like a drama student looking to win an academy award or (a writer) winning the Pulitzer Prize, there is no reason that can’t be you. He started right here, sat in (the Thorvaldson Building) and achieved greatness.”

Palmer noted the chemistry department has played an integral role in scientific innovations throughout its 100-year history. Its first students were tasked with studying the quality of local milk and well water, while former department head Thorbergur Thorvaldson revolutionized cement manufacturing. Current students and faculty are receiving international attention for their work on everything from fundamental properties of matter to solar energy research.

“This is truly one of the departments that built the university into what it is today, so we are really proud and excited to celebrate that,” he said.

A department reunion will be held Sept. 20 and 21, featuring walking tours and talks by notable alumni. The Taube exhibit will be open Sept. 9–20 in the Murray Library. The Taube Nobel medal will be on view in the afternoon of Sept. 20 with a brief presentation at 3 pm.

For more information, visit the Department of Chemistry’s website and click on ‘alumni’. ■

Kirk Sibbald is communications officer in the College of Arts and Science

moving. The team wants to take this one step further.

“We want both physical and mind,” Zhang said. “This is the novel aspect of our approach.”

For example, as the wrist rehabilitation system monitored emotions, it could cue messages to encourage the patient. The system could also prevent patients from overdoing it if it sensed they were pushing themselves too hard.

Zhang explained that one of the challenges is keeping the sensors unobtrusive and easy to use. “The key to having machines understand human emotion is to have sensors that can non-intrusively and non-obstructively

get the signals from the human.”

At home, the system would become a virtual partner. That is, the computer would learn from the patient and help them direct their own rehabilitation.

“My plan is not only management of patient function and performance, but also that emotions become active in rehabilitation. We would have on screen an advisor – like a friend.”

“This whole project is based on the concept of home-based rehabilitation,” Zhang said. “That is very important for Saskatchewan, where many people live far away from cities and major hospital facilities and they prefer to stay at home.” ■

INTERVAC COMMUNITY LIAISON COMMITTEE INVITES YOU TO THE ANNUAL PRESENTATION AND REPORT

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2013
VIDO THEATRE
120 VETERINARY ROAD
7:00 PM
RECEPTION TO FOLLOW

You are invited to a public meeting sponsored by the VIDO-InterVac Community Liaison Committee. As you may know, InterVac is a bio-containment Level 3 (CL3) facility where scientists will study certain diseases and where vaccines will be developed and tested. The term CL3 describes the type of safety measures and equipment needed within the facility to ensure the safety of workers and the community.

The Community Liaison Committee, chaired by Susan Lamb, is a diverse group of citizens including experts in emergency measures as well as citizens at large. The CLC is an independent committee established by the University of Saskatchewan to ensure communication on safety issues related to InterVac is open and transparent. The CLC continuously seeks information on activities of community concern, as well as monitors issues related to safety and any incidents of potential public interest. This is especially timely as the facility is in its start-up phase and it is expected that operations will begin very soon.

Dr. Andrew Potter, CEO and Director of VIDO-InterVac, and some of his senior staff will make a presentation with questions and refreshments to follow.

VIDO-INTERVAC COMMUNITY LIAISON COMMITTEE
COMMUNITY
www.intervacclc.ca



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Readers respond to news survey

COLLEEN MACPHERSON

Group calls for ongoing dialogue

From Page 4

Although President Busch-Vishniac has thus far failed to advocate strongly for students and the people of Saskatchewan, she will have many more opportunities to do so. Therefore, we make the following recommendations, as students, and as persons deeply committed to the wellbeing of the University of Saskatchewan:

1. Provide more time for public debate upstream of decisions over priorities and process. We need to apply local knowledge and develop our own organically and democratically created methodologies for critical prioritization processes.

2. Ensure a diversity of voices at the table when the U of S engages in strategic planning and priority setting. The persons

making decisions need to reflect the diversity of the province.

3. Publicly inquire into allegations of “perp walks” for fired employees so we have assurance inhumane practices are not occurring at our institution.

4. President Busch-Vishniac must be more bold and public with challenges to provincial funding allocations. She should trust the support behind her and use the power she has as president to advocate for increased government funding. This must be done to cause the provincial government to pay a political cost for under funding its dominant research institution and one of its greatest engines of economic growth. Make it costly. Step up the pressure.

This letter is submitted in the hope that real and sustained dialogue can develop between

students and university administration. ■

Sasha Hanson Pastran, St. Thomas More College/ Arts and Science

Dan LeBlanc, Law

Mary Jean Hande, University Senate

David Bentham, Graduate Studies and Research

Melissa Gan, Arts and Science

Xochitl Hanson Pastran, Medicine

Elias Nelson, Arts and Science

Haseeb Risvi, Kinesiology

Amanda Guthrie, Arts and Science

Jon Herriot, Medicine

Grace Schenher, Arts and Science

Erica Lee, St. Thomas More College/ Arts and Science

Heather Franklin, Law

Irena Smith, Arts and Science

Leif Jensen, Law

Kota Kimura, Graduate Studies and Research

Dan Pagan, Law

Andrea Cessna, Arts and Science

Christine Young, Arts and Science

Savannah Wilson, Graduate Studies and Research

Katherine Edwards, Arts and Science

Molly Patterson, Agriculture and Bioresources

Catherine Nygren, Arts and Science

Cooper Muirhead, Arts and Science

Seth Dueck, Engineering

Christine Chang, Medicine

Jonathan Stockdale, Law

Jelena Misevski, Arts and Science

Paul Herrem, Arts and Science

Michelle Thompson, Arts and Science

We asked, and you answered.

In May, the strategic communications group did an online survey asking members of the campus community questions about news and information from and about the University of Saskatchewan, the goal being continual improvement of news services.

Just over 300 responded, a mix of staff, faculty, students and others who chose not to self identify. Thank you to everyone who took time to fill out the survey. And congratulations to Lee Wilson from the Department of Chemistry, who won a luncheon for eight at the University Club in a random draw.

The survey started off with general questions about how people access most news and information about the U of S. The majority – 44% – relies on the print *On Campus News*, and 26% prefer the e-newsletter *On Campus Now*. Other popular sources of U of S news and information include local media, as well as meetings, emails and face-to-face contacts on campus.

In terms of what kinds of news readers prefer, most (75%) are looking for general or high-level university information but there is also an appetite for stories about people (62%), college- or unit-specific news (58%) and event details (57%). A lot of people want more letters to the editor; so would we. Feel free to email letters to ocn@usask.ca.

In all, 78% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that OCN is a helpful source of news and information, while 76% agreed or strongly agreed it is also a credible source. For information specific to employees, 64% of respondents found *On Campus Now*, the e-newsletter, helpful although comments indicate people have less time these days for reading either OCN or *On Campus Now*.

As for the online news site, many people said they did not know about news.usask.ca, but of those who did, 42% found it a helpful news source.

Throughout the survey, respondents were invited to make comments, and there were many. We appreciate the compliments, will consider the constructive criticism and suggestions, and acknowledge that some people are unhappy with the university's news services. The strategic communications team will take it all into consideration. Some changes already in the works include moving *On Campus Now* email distribution to Tuesdays rather than Fridays, and a redesign of news.usask.ca is focused on making the site more organized and easy to use.

If you would like more information, or have more to say about the U of S news services, contact colleen.macpherson@usask.ca ■

Goal is to make U of S stronger

From Page 4

are well represented, as well as scheduled town hall meetings. Thus, there will be significant opportunity for comment by students, by faculty, by staff, by alumni and by other interested parties. I will continue to ensure this process is open, transparent and fair.

I can appreciate students' concerns regarding changes we are undertaking and how these may affect the quality of education provided at the U of S. I promise that all projects undertaken through operating budget adjustments will ensure our resources are focused clearly on our priorities as outlined in our planning documents—specifically the Third Integrated Plan

and our Strategic Directions—and that the university will not just maintain, but improve the quality of education we are able to provide and the research for which we are known. I deeply care about students and their future. Despite the challenges the university faces and the uncertainty you may feel, the goal is to make our university stronger.

This past year we invited all students to get involved in how budget adjustments will shape the future of the university by submitting ideas to usask.ca/finances and by making their voices heard at town halls. We solicited nominations for the TransformUS task forces from students and will continue to find venues for students to participate in the necessary

work of setting our priorities and ensuring financial sustainability. I would welcome thoughts on how we can best communicate with the student community on all operating budget adjustment initiatives.

For answers to many other concerns presented in this letter, I encourage you to visit the rumour mill at usask.ca/finances.

Again, I sincerely appreciate the time taken to provide me with your thoughts and concerns with respect to operating budget adjustments and I hope my reply will help alleviate some of these concerns. ■

*Ilene Busch-Vishniac
is president of the
University of Saskatchewan*

Coming Events

From Page 7

Miscellany

GSA Events

The U of S Graduate Students' Association is hosting a number of events:

- Sept. 4 – GSA orientation from 5-8 pm in the Bowl
- Sept. 5 – GSA orientation wine and cheese in the GSA Commons, Emmanuel and St. Chad

Yoga and Other Spiritual Practices

Meewasin Valley United Church at St. Andrew's College is offering yoga and other spiritual practices from 7-9 pm on the first and third Thursday of each month starting Sept. 5. To register or for more information email revmvue@sasktel.net

Rutherford Curling

The Rutherford Curling Club has openings for curling teams in the Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday evening draws. The curling is scheduled to begin Oct. 21. The draw times are 6:30 to 8:30 pm at the Rutherford curling rink on campus. Anyone interested in curling or learning to curl, contact one of the following league co-ordinators: Monday league - Corrie Berndt, cberndt@sasktel.net; Tuesday league- Ray Butler, butlerd@sasktel.net; Wednesday league - Louis Roth, louis.roth@usask.ca

College Centennial

The College of Pharmacy and Nutrition launch of its centennial year events takes place Sept. 20 at 3 pm on the steps of the

Thorvaldson Building. (In the event of inclement weather, the launch will move to the Neatby-Timlin Theatre, Room 241 Arts.) A reception will follow in the lobby of Thorvaldson Building, with refreshments, popcorn and cupcakes. For more information, visit the college's centennial website at www.usask.ca/pharmacy-nutrition/centennial

CFUW Open House

The Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW) Saskatoon Inc. is holding its annual open house Sept. 8 from 2-4 pm at the W.A. Edwards Family Centre, 333 4th Ave. N., Saskatoon. CFUW Saskatoon Inc. works to raise the social, economic, education and legal status of women and girls. The group promotes education for women and awards over \$20,000 annually in post-secondary scholarships. New members are welcome.

Submit Coming Events

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

Next OCN: Friday, Sept 13, 2013
Deadline: Thursday, Sept 5, 2013

ocn@usask.ca, fax 966-6815
or use web submission form at www.usask.ca/ocn

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This well loved character home is in exceptional condition and is ideally situated in the desirable Varsity View. Classic floor plan has formal living room and dining room with French doors, extensive hardwood flooring and original woodwork, upgraded oak kitchen, sunroom with Pella windows, 3 bedrooms, 3 baths, 2 dens and spacious family room with in floor heat. New shingles in 2013. Beautifully landscaped 50' x 139'9" lot with deck and patio. Double detached garage. \$829,000



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Valentino built! Stylish 1565 sq ft top floor corner 2 bedroom plus den condo. North east & South exposure offering abundance of natural light and a fabulous view of the golf course and Willows Development. Many extras including 9ft ceilings, in floor heat, beautiful kitchen with granite counters & stainless steel appliances. Deck has natural gas for BBQ. Underground and surface parking, also includes a huge underground storage room. \$599,900



More pictures and info www.woutersrealty.com

Coming Events

■ The Arts

Chorus Registration

Registration for the University and Community Chorus will be held Sept. 9 from 6:30 to 7:30 pm in Quance Theatre, Education Building, followed by a short rehearsal. Any adult who loves to sing, can read music and enjoys classical repertoire is encouraged to participate. No audition is necessary. Registration for community members is \$100 for the full year or \$60 for one semester. Full-time U of S students registering through PAWS do not pay registration. Director of the chorus is Gerald Langner. Repertoire for the fall semester is J.S. Bach's *Magnificat*; for the spring semester it is Ralph Vaughan Williams' *Sea Symphony*. For more information, phone 306-652-5957, 306-220-9633 or go to www.usask.ca/music/ensembles/uchorus.html

The Story of Avro Canada

The Diefenbaker Canada Centre has mounted an exhibition that looks beyond the controversy about the Avro Arrow to the accomplishments of Avro Canada. *Touch the Sky: The Story of Avro Canada*, on view until Dec. 15, includes artifacts and information about the history of the company and its many projects.

Kenderdine Art Gallery

Opening Sept. 13 is *Jillian McDonald: Valley of the Deer*, a three-channel high-definition video installation shot on location in the Scottish highlands during a six-month artist residency. It responds to the landscape, traditional highland dress and music, oral folklore and pagan legends. The show runs until Dec. 21.

Gordon Snelgrove Gallery

On view until Sept. 6 in the Gordon Snelgrove Gallery is *Home Is Where the Heart Is ...*, work by Michèle Mackasey an residents of the YWCA-Saskatoon Crisis Shelter. Mackasey was artist in residence at the shelter and worked with residents to produce several independent works, a collective painting and two collective series. There will be a reception in the gallery Sept. 6 from 7-10 pm.

■ Conferences

Global Connections Conference

Global Connections 2013 takes place Sept. 21 at Wanuskewin Heritage Park and is a leadership conference for U of S students in all colleges and department. The event is designed to provide students to learn from skilled facilitators about leadership skills and cross-cultural competencies. Featured will be Idle No More co-founder Sheelah McLean from the College of Education and professional facilitator and activist Tracey Mitchell. More information and registration is available at the International Student and Study Abroad Centre (ISSAC) or by contacting c.young@usask.ca The event is sponsored by ISSAC, the College of Arts and Science and STM Engaged Learning.

Cultures of Reconciliation

The Humanities Research Unit presents a conference entitled Cultures of Reconciliation: Academic, Artistic, Activist Sept. 26-27 in the Grad Commons and the Mendel Art Gallery. The event is free and open to the public. For full program details contact Len Findlay at 306-966-2573 or len.findlay@usask.ca

Merging Minds

The College of Medicine is hosting its 2nd annual Global Health Conference entitled Merging Minds for Global Health: A Multidisciplinary Call to Action, on Sept 20 and 21. The event provides an opportunity for students, health professionals and community members to analyze and disseminate knowledge on a wide range of global health issues. Participants will explore ways to address these issues through collaborative research and action, and conference will highlight current research, development projects and multidisciplinary global health initiatives at the U of S. For more information and to register, go to www.saskglobalhealth2013.usask.ca

■ Seminars/Lectures

Veterinary Microbiology

• Sept. 10, 9:30-10:30 am, Room 2102 WCV, thesis defence seminar, Matthew Links presents Microbial profiling using metagenomic assembly.
• Sept. 10, 3-4 pm, Room 2104 WCV, special seminar, John Stavrindes, Department of Biology, University of Regina, presents Lifestyles of the surreptitiously infectious: A look into the pathogenic potential of the enteric bacterium, *Pantoea*.

Co-operatives Seminar

• Sept. 10, 3:30-4:30 pm, Canada Room, Diefenbaker Building, the Centre for the Study of Co-operatives presents its first seminar of the fall term with Cristina Cano Ortega, a PhD candidate and visiting scholar from the University of Almería in Spain presenting Agricultural Co-operatives in Spain: What Can They Learn from the Canadian Experience?

Fine Arts Research Lecture

• Oct. 16, 12:30 pm, Quance Theatre, Education Building, Steven McCannon, Dept. of Music, presents Intensified Recapitulations in Beethoven's Symphonies

GIWS Lecture Series

The Global Institute for Water Security features the following speakers in a series of lecture that take place at 4 pm in Convocation Hall:

- Sept. 11, Dani Or, Dept. of Environmental Sciences, ETH Zurich
- Sept. 18, John Selker, Dept. of Biological and Ecological Engineering, Oregon State University
- Sept. 25, Peter Troch, Dept. of Hydrology and Water Resources, The University of Arizona
- Oct. 2, Keith Beven, The Lancaster Environment Centre, Lancaster University

■ Courses/Workshops

Centre for Continuing and Distance Education

For more information, visit www.ccde.usask.ca or call 966-5539

Business and Leadership Programs

- Introduction to Procurement (Tuesday evenings, 13 weeks), Sept. 17 - Dec. 10
- Managing Conflict - Level I, Oct. 16-17.
- Leadership Development Program (Tuesdays only), Oct. 29-Nov. 26.
- Developing a Coaching Mindset, Nov. 6-7.
- Leadership for Managers and Supervisors, Nov. 12-13.
- Leadership Communication, Nov. 15.
- Leading Innovation, Inspiring Creativity in the Workplace, Nov. 18.

USCAD Fall Classes

- Visual Arts Survey I, Sept. 17 - Dec. 10
- Printmaking & Traditional Image Making I, Sept. 16 - Dec. 16
- 2D Design 1, Sept. 18 - Dec. 11
- Approaches to Expressive Colour I, Sept. 16 - Dec. 16
- Drawing 1 (morning class), Sept. 16-Dec. 16
- Drawing 1 (evening class), Sept. 16-Dec. 16
- Life Drawing I, Sept. 18-Dec. 11
- Life Drawing II, Sept. 18-Dec. 11
- Drawing for Illustration II, Sept. 18-Dec. 11
- Drawing in Soft Pastel I (morning), Sept. 18-Dec. 11
- Painting I (morning), Sept. 17-Dec. 10
- Painting 1, Sept. 17-Dec. 10
- Developing Design in Painting and Mixed Media II (afternoon), Sept. 19 - Dec. 12
- Painting/Towards Abstraction II, Oct. 18-20/25-27
- Painting/Towards Abstraction III, Oct. 18-20/25-27
- Open Project Painting II/III Critique and Advice, Sept. 14-Dec. 14
- Open Project II/III-Full Course Painting, Sept. 19-Dec. 12
- 3D Design I, Sept. 18-Dec. 11
- 3D Design 1, Sept. 19-Dec. 12

- Sculpture I, Sept. 18-Dec. 11
- Sculpture I, Sept. 19-Dec. 12
- Sculpture II, Sept. 18-Dec. 11
- Modeling, Mold-Making and Casting for Sculpture II, Sept. 19-Dec. 12
- Photography I, Sept. 25-Dec. 18
- Advanced Photography II, Sept. 24-Dec. 17
- Digital Photography - Weekend Workshop, Oct. 4-5/18-19
- An Introduction to Your Computer-Macintosh, Sept. 10 and 12
- iBook Author, Sept. 23-Nov. 4
- Photoshop I, Sept. 19-Dec. 12
- Adobe Illustrator I, Sept. 14-Nov. 30
- Adobe InDesign I, Sept. 14-Nov. 30
- Stained Glass I, Oct. 4-6
- Glass Fusion I, Oct. 19-20
- Glass Fusion II, Nov. 2-3
- Silversmithing: Basic Skills for Silver Jewelry, Oct. 25-27
- Advanced Silversmithing, Nov. 15-17
- Experimental Portraiture, Sept. 27-29/Oct. 4-6
- Off the Wall: Mixed Media Sculptural Wall Pieces I, Nov. 15-17/22-24

USCAD Information Session

• Sept. 3, 7 pm and Jan. 6, 7 pm, Room 118, Williams Bldg. 221 Cumberland Ave. N.

Community Music Education Program

Suzuki Early Childhood, Parenting with Music and Music in Early Childhood classes start in September. Private lessons in traditional guitar, Suzuki guitar, traditional piano, Suzuki piano, and violin also start in September. For more information contact Nicole Wilton at 966-5625 or visit communitymusic.usask.ca

Crucial Conversations Workshops for U of S Employees

- Workshop 1 - Oct. 21 and 28, Rm 224/225 Williams Building, fee \$490
- Workshop 2 - Dec. 9 and 16, Rm 224/225 Williams Building, fee \$490

U of S Language Centre Programs

Register now at ccde.usask.ca/learnlanguages or call 306-966-4351
Fall term Oct. 3 - Dec. 5:

- Pronunciation, Writing and Grammar, Spoken English, Reading or Listening Skills, Graduate-Level Writing. For more information or to register: 966-4351, ccde.usask.ca/PTESL
- Multilingual Conversational Language Classes, Sept. 16 to Dec. 4
- French levels 1 to 8: \$205 (gst exempt)
- Italian level 1 and 2: \$215.25 (gst included)
- Spanish levels 1 to 7: \$215.25 (gst included)
- Portuguese level 1: \$215.25 (gst included)
- German levels 1 and 2: \$215.25 (gst included)
- Japanese levels 1 to 3: \$215.25 (gst included)
- Japanese for the Traveller: \$236.25 (textbook & gst included)
- Cree Level 1: \$225.75 (class materials & gst included)
- Textbooks and workbooks are extra (excluding Japanese for the Traveller and Cree 1). Please call 306-966-4351 or email reception.uslc@usask.ca for a language assessment.
- Spanish Turista: Nov. 1-3, Friday 6:30 - 9 pm, Saturday and Sunday, 9 am - 5 pm, lunch provided. Cost: \$315 (gst included). Textbooks and workbooks are included. Call 306.966.4351
- Italian Level 1 and 2 Conversational Classes: Oct. 1-Dec. 4: Level 1 classes are for beginners with little or no speaking ability; Level 2 classes are for those who have successfully completed Level 1 or who have basic speaking abilities. Cost \$215.25. Textbooks and workbooks are extra.
- Italian Level 1, Tuesday evenings 7 pm - 9 pm
- Italian Level 2, Wednesday evenings 7 pm - 9 pm
- Spanish Weekender for Real Beginners, Oct. 4-6, Friday 6:30-9 pm, Saturday and Sunday, 9 am-5 pm, lunch provided. Cost \$288.75 (gst included). Textbooks and workbooks included.

Non-credit Physics Math Review

• Sept. 10-12, 7-9 pm, Room 103 Physics, a free, optional physics math review course is being offered to students registered in Physics 115.3. The course will review mathematical concepts and techniques required in the course. Register by contacting CCDE at 306-966-5539.

Edwards School of Business Executive Education

For information call 966-8686, email execed@edwards.usask.ca or visit edwards.usask.ca/execed

- Sept. 15 - 20, The Labour-Management Relations Certificate Program
- Sept. 16 - 18, The Business Analyst's Course
- Sept. 30 - Oct. 2, Team Leadership Skills for Project Managers
- Oct. 17 - March 8, 2014, The Masters Certificate in Project Management - Regina
- Oct. 18 - March 15, 2014, The Masters Certificate in Project Management
- Oct. 21-23, The Project Management Course
- Oct. 23, Women of Influence Breakfast
- Oct. 25, Edwards Seminar Series: Trust the Big Business Dividend
- Oct. 29 - 30, Process Mapping and Process Improvement Course
- Oct. 31 - Nov 1, Process Metrics, Management and Controls Course Nov. 4 - 5, Master Clinic on Solving Tough Problems
- Nov. 20 - 22, What the Non-Financial Manager Needs to Know About Financial and Managerial Accounting

Continuing Professional Learning - Medicine

For more information, call 306-966-7787 or visit usask.ca/cme

- Oct. 18-19, Saskatchewan Emergency Medicine Annual Conference (SEMACE), Hilton Garden Inn, Saskatoon
- Nov. 15-16, Practical Management of Common Medical Problems, Saskatoon Inn

see more Coming Events on Page 6



University Club
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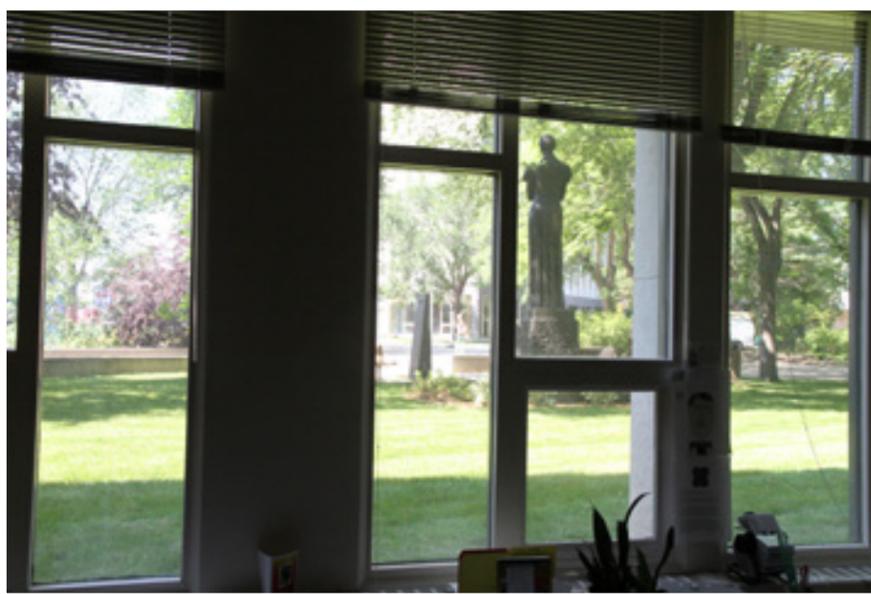
Membership is less than \$25 per month and open to all of the University's talented and dedicated, Faculty, Staff, Alumni, and Retirees!

UNIVERSITY Club

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Room with a View

This year's back-page feature explores the view of campus from various office windows, and the people who enjoy them. Do you have an interesting view? Let us know at ocn@usask.ca



From the ground up

Tereigh Ewert-Bauer claims she has the best view on campus, and probably the only one that's right at ground level.

Ewert-Bauer is a member of the educational development team in the Gwenna Moss Centre

for Teaching Effectiveness, which is located in the north wing of the Murray Building. Her ground-level window faces northwest, with a great view across the grass to the benches and statue in the new Lesya Ukrainka garden, and the Arts Building beyond. She said she watched a lot of legs going back and forth when the garden was under construction, and now can keep an eye on the occupants of the benches.

"Every time I need a break from my work, I look out my window," she said, admitting she's become "the weather maven" of the Gwenna Moss centre and has been known to send out alerts to her colleagues when she sees a storm approaching.

But what makes Ewert-Bauer's view very special is a gopher that, for the past couple of year, has visited almost every day. He scampers up to the window "but he doesn't just stand on the grass," she said. "He comes right up onto the sill, puts his paws on the glass and looks in. I think he's trying to be a micromanager; he's making sure I do my work."

