



SUMMER STUDENTS

Over the course of the summer, hundreds of young people once again took part in Kids Camps at the U of S, immersing themselves in everything from acting, history and politics to music, ecology and sports. But summer camp is always more than just time in the classroom, on the stage or in the rehearsal studio. It was a common sight to see groups of young students heading for an open area to enjoy the warm weather and maybe a game or two of soccer, or Quidditch.



KRIS FOSTER

Going to the dogs

Canines show great promise as cancer research model

COLLEEN MACPHERSON

A dog owner who shows up at the Western College of Veterinary Medicine (WCVN) with a pet that has lymphoma might be surprised to see a molecular geneticist and an internist from the College of Medicine on the team of specialists handling the case.

Professor Troy Harkness from the Department of Anatomy and Cell Biology and Dr. Terra Arnason, a biochemist and clinical endocrinologist with the College of Medicine, have moved their research on drug-resistant cancer across campus, to the WCVN, to explore dogs as models for research designed to help humans. It is an intriguing step that challenges the traditional mouse model for cancer research, and it is one that is showing exciting potential.

“Yes, you can learn a lot with mice,” said Harkness, “how cellular mechanisms might work, how drugs might work. It

gives you an indication that yes, this might work,” but might is the key word in his statement.

“Everything we’re doing is to try to figure out how human disease can be helped,” he said, but time and again, promising results in mice show no benefit for humans. Arnason said Type 1 diabetes can be cured many different ways in mice but none work for humans, and a significant number of clinical trials on inflammatory mechanisms that worked in mice failed in humans.

“The benefits you see in mice studies—the eureka moments—have been very disappointing in humans,” she said. “Mice are genetically so similar that it’s become such an artificial system. The true advantage of our dog system is that they’re just like us, from completely different backgrounds. Basically we’re all mongrels.”

“Mice also don’t share

the environment we live in,” continued Harkness. “They live in sterile lab conditions but pet animals—dogs, cats, gerbils, hamsters—all share our environment.”

Human and dogs also both develop lymphoma spontaneously, the canine version being very similar to non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma in humans. Both respond to the same treatment and both develop resistance which is what Harkness, Arnason and their colleagues—Dr. Val MacDonald, a veterinary medical oncologist, and Dr. Casey Gaunt, a small animal internal medicine specialist, both from the WCVN, and Tony Kusalik, a bioinformatics researcher in the College of Arts and Science—are exploring in their trial which recently received \$165,000 from the Canadian Cancer Society.

See *Dogs*, Page 2



The research team includes, back row from left, Tony Kusalik, Terra Arnason and Troy Harkness. Front row from the left are Val MacDonald and Casey Gaunt. In the centre are Cooper and Elphie.

COLLEEN MACPHERSON

Dogs' short lives a boon for researchers

From Page 1

The team is studying the effect of metformin on dogs with drug-resistant lymphoma. Metformin has been used to treat Type 2 diabetes but studies have shown that people on metformin develop cancer less often than people who are not.

What they have observed in dogs is that proteins or markers that are elevated in drug-resistant cancers are reduced with metformin. The metformin essentially lowers the drug-resistant cancer cells' defenses, opening the door to the possibility of new, more effective drug treatments.

The advantage of "moving up the evolutionary tree step by step" from mice to dogs to humans is that dogs' compressed life span means researchers can see the disease progress much faster than in humans, said Harkness. Tissue and blood monitoring allow earlier detection of the markers pointing to drug resistance.

"Right now, the detection of drug resistance is often too late for humans," said Arnason. "It could be weeks or months before the resistance is clinically apparent and then you're administering toxic drugs that may be ineffective."

Arnason admitted the researchers had not considered using dogs until they received what she called "a serendipitous phone call" from MacDonald at the WCV. MacDonald had read a story in this paper in December 2011 about Harkness' work with drug-resistant breast

“ Dogs just aren't that accessible. Not all vet schools in Canada actually have an oncology department, but ours does.

Troy Harkness



Harkness

cancer cells "and she called to say, I have drug-resistant dogs. When we talked to her, we realized we've got applicability, we've got accessibility, we've got relevance, and we've got short lifespan. It's perfect."

Harkness and Arnason agree their research would not be progressing as it is had they not worked at a university with a veterinary college. Dogs, said Harkness, "just aren't that accessible. Not all vet schools in Canada actually have an oncology department, but ours does."

Even with the veterinary college in such close proximity, it has not been an easy journey. First, there is a shortage of dogs for the trial. Harkness and Arnason have funding for 25 dogs a year but so far, they have only been able to enroll a handful. In most cases, by the time the dog shows drug resistance, the owners have paid as much as they can for treatment. To lessen the financial burden,

the researchers are offering \$1,000 per patient to offset the cost of drugs.

The time commitment to doing the research is proving to be another hurdle. "The clinicians at the WCVM still have full-time clinical practices," said Arnason. "They can't increase their numbers because they're already saturated and they don't have technical support," but the human and veterinary medical researchers remain committed to the project.

"If we hadn't connected on a personal level, I don't think this would have happened," said Arnason. "We really had to push for time, push for connections, push for money, everything. It was just the determination of the group of five of us to do it."

The WCVM and the College of Medicine provided \$20,000 in seed money for the pilot study "and that was what gave us the preliminary information to go to the CCS for additional funding," she added.



Arnason

“ We're trying to test whether the observations we see in the tissue cultures and in dogs actually apply to humans.

Terra Arnason

And there is more to come. "We've got a lot of plans," said Harkness, including a five-year, \$1 million grant proposal to the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CHR) to move to human cancer behaviour. "We're trying to test whether the observations we see in the tissue cultures and in dogs actually apply to humans," said Arnason. "We call it translational research—from bench to bedside."

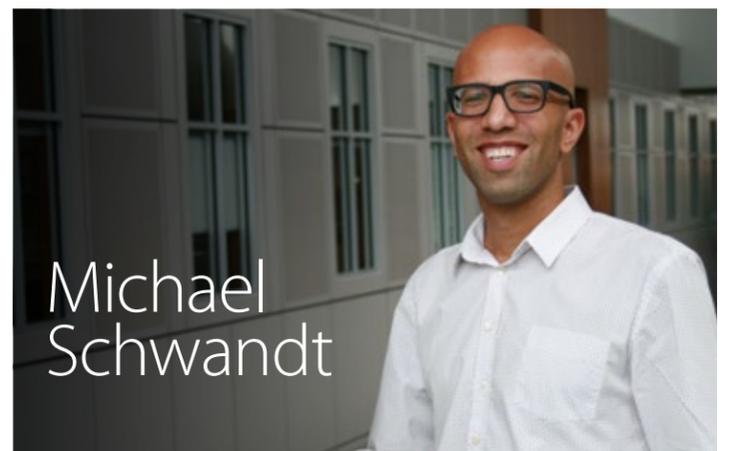
With word of the dog trial results spreading rapidly, Harkness said he is seeing interest from other researchers in moving away from the mice

model. And Arnason presented their research at a conference in Chicago in the hope of encouraging others to use dogs as a cancer model rather than going directly from mice to humans.

Even with their success using dogs, Harkness and Arnason believe there is still a role for mice in basic research.

"We're still amenable to using mice because they can answer questions," he said, "but the difficulty comes in asking, what does this mean for humans? Whatever we see, we have to tread carefully in our interpretations." ■

NEW TO US



Michael Schwandt

Dr. Michael Schwandt describes public health as "slow motion medicine" compared to clinical practice, where a doctor can treat a patient and see immediate results. In public health, the patient is the whole community so the treatment of health problems takes time, but Schwandt finds the field gratifying.

"One thing that's always excited me about public health is the big-picture aspect of it," he said. "Being right at that interface between knowledge generation and knowledge application is very exciting."

Diagnosing public health problems can bring surprising results. Schwandt described work with Kenyan colleagues that found the greatest determinant of whether or not a person would get HIV was not intensive information programs on things like safe sex; it was whether or not a person had completed high school. He predicted solutions to Canadian health problems like obesity and diabetes will likely be found outside clinics and hospitals.

"This is the sort of thing where decisions made outside of the health-care sector are likely to have big impacts on actual health outcomes," he said.

Growing up in Winnipeg, Schwandt was drawn to professions that would allow him to help people.

"In high school, I wanted to be a teacher, but it turned out I had a bit of an affinity for science, and it became a natural combination to apply that to human health and to medicine."

Schwandt finished a psychology degree at UBC, then completed his MD at the University of Manitoba. Further training in family and community medicine at the Women's College Hospital with the University of Toronto was followed by a graduate degree from the Harvard School of Public Health. He joined the Department of Community Health and Epidemiology in the U of S College of Medicine in 2013 after a fellowship at the U of T.

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

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Remembering those who served

Great War commemoration underway

COLLEEN MACPHERSON

When the First World War broke out in August of 1914, the University of Saskatchewan was just seven years old and fewer than 50 degrees had been awarded to graduates. But the institution still made a significant contribution to the war effort, a contribution that will be recognized with a series of events over the coming four years.

“The Great War was an event that sent shock waves throughout Canadian society and had a profound impact on that generation,” said Bill Waiser, retired history professor and chair of the university’s Great War Commemoration committee. At the U of S, about 75 per cent of the student body heeded the call to arms in 1914. Staff and faculty enlisted too and by 1916, the College of Engineering was temporarily shut down for lack of teachers and students.

Today, 350 university people are memorialized on the walls of the Peter MacKinnon Building for their war service but Waiser and his committee believe there is much more to consider and remember about that period in U of S, and Canadian, history.

The commemoration committee has plans for many events over the next four years, he said, and they fall into two thematic areas—the university and Saskatoon at war, and second, the war at the university and in Saskatoon.

The flagship commemoration event will be a series of public lectures, including one by award-winning Canadian author Joseph Boyden in October but among other possibilities the committee is considering are displays of archival materials and artwork of the day, a war food week, an Antiques Roadshow-esque opportunity for experts to assess personal memorabilia, and a Great War soiree featuring stories and songs, poems and letters.

“Yes, it is ambitious,” said Waiser, “but we’re trying to make it as engaging and as educational as possible.”

Many of the materials that will be featured over the four years—documents, photos and memorabilia – come from University Archives. One example is the letters of Edmund Oliver, the university’s first history professor. Waiser said Oliver wrote very regularly to his wife while he was overseas and those letters “provide an almost daily glimpse into life at the front. In fact, the Great War was also called the postcard war because of the amount of mail that was delivered home from overseas. I’m talking about millions of pieces of correspondence.”

Outside the university, the 1914-1918 war resulted in



Bill Waiser, retired history professor and chair of the university’s Great War Commemoration committee.

COLLEEN MACPHERSON

profound and lasting change in all of Canadian society, he continued.

“Income tax was introduced in 1917 as a temporary measure—they forgot the ‘temporary’ part—and daylight savings time was introduced during the Great War. Thinking of what happened on the western front, the wristwatch was a war innovation because soldiers couldn’t be forever pulling their pocket watches out. And you had women’s suffrage succeed during

the Great War, and the introduction of prohibition at home even though soldiers received a daily rum ration.”

Waiser said University Archives built and will maintain a war commemoration website throughout the coming four years with information about events and links to materials. The commemoration will conclude with a rededication of the Memorial Gates in 2018.

The university’s plans will tie in with other centennial activities

in the city and province, he said, and although the committee is aware of activities planned by other Canadian universities, “we’re not trying to replicate them. This Great War had a profound impact on this university so we need to commemorate it in our own way.”

Details of the commemoration events will soon be available at greatwar.usask.ca. Follow the events on Twitter (@gwcp306) or Facebook (Great War Commemoration Project). ■

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Accomplished grad

PATRICK HAYES, U OF S ARCHIVES

Pictured here is Herb Pinder (BA 1942) in a leather football helmet. While at university he was a multi-sport athlete receiving letters in football, basketball and swimming. From 1942-45, Pinder served in the Royal Canadian Navy Volunteer Reserve and retired with the rank of Lieutenant Commander. In addition to his family business, Pinder’s Drugs, he held a number of directorships with prominent Canadian corporations. In 1964, he was elected to the Saskatchewan Legislature and was appointed Minister of Industry and Commerce. Pinder also served as a member of the Executive Committee of the Montreal World Exposition known as Expo 67 and spent one term as the chair of the Saskatchewan Power Corporation. He was a member of the university’s Board of Governors from 1958 to 1964 and served as chair from 1961 to 1963. The University of Saskatchewan awarded Pinder a Doctor of Laws in 1997. ■



A-7150



A special soldier

When the Great War Commemoration committee set out to develop a graphic to distinguish its events and website, they only had to go to the University Archives to find exactly what they needed.

The red and black rememberUS graphic includes the image of a First World War soldier, head bowed and hands resting on the stock of his rifle. Patrick Hayes, archives technician, found it on the front page of the Nov. 6, 1936 issue of *The Sheaf*. It appears to have been created by the newspaper staff as part of Remembrance Day coverage, said Hayes, so to use it rather than a stock image gives the graphic special connection to the U of S.



The November 6, 1936 issue of *The Sheaf*.

LETTER

Thanks for donations

The Saskatchewan Environmental Society would like to thank everyone from the University community that donates to our organization through the U of S payroll deduction plan. Your generosity is sincerely appreciated! Your donations are supporting important work on sustainable energy and climate solutions, water protection, resource conservation, biodiversity preservation, and reduction of toxic substances.

As a charitable organization, the Saskatchewan Environmental Society works towards a world in which all needs can be met in sustainable ways: sustainability will require healthy ecosystems, healthy livelihoods and healthy human communities.

The SES has been active in Saskatchewan since 1970 and is committed to supporting sustainable living and sustainable resource use in Saskatchewan. We work with, and on behalf of, communities, organizations, businesses and policy makers to encourage informed decision-making that moves us towards sustainability. We undertake research, and use education, community outreach, consultation opportunities and demonstration projects to provide the people of Saskatchewan the information and tools they need to make and to support these informed decisions.

For those of you contributing to SES through the payroll deduction plan, and are not currently receiving our newsletter, please let us know and we will gladly add your name to our mailing list by emailing info@environmentalsociety.ca or calling 306-665-1915. You can also choose to "Self Identify to Charity" on the Charitable Donations page in your My Employment channel of PAWS.

Again, thank you to those of you who contribute to the SES through the U of S payroll deduction plan. We appreciate the difference our University donors are making! ■

Allyson Brady, SES Executive Director



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VIEWPOINT

Love letter to the U of S Bookstore

BILL ROBERTSON

I always knew bookstores existed, but not for me. I grew up in a home full of books, but we either lived in a non-English speaking country, or in a rural area that could barely support a gas station, let alone a bookstore.

When I finally made it to the University of Saskatchewan, having worked manual labour after high school and discovered I didn't care for it, I was ready for all that campus, and its city, had to offer: midnight pizza and Chinese food, unobstructed beer runs, and various other delights.

First job in the fall term: get texts at the U of S Bookstore. By my first day of classes it had moved to its spacious new quarters in Marquis Hall. Wow. Marquis Shakes upstairs (those were dances), bookstore downstairs. Hello higher learning.

Like other young people who majored in English, I bought my first Complete Shakespeare there. And my Chaucer, Milton, Yeats, and the various big anthologies. What bounty. But once the furour of the first few weeks died down, classes found their predictable schedules, and students found the libraries, I discovered the Bookstore had a whole other appeal.

After a less than stellar high school career, I felt very grateful to be in university, at all. I hit the Murray Memorial Library soon and hard. But long hours require relief, and I found great solace in the U of S Bookstore in the middle of an afternoon.

Like other students, I'd noticed the record racks right away. I bought my first Four Tops record there (after a soul-less diet on the arid plains), my first

Robert Johnson, my first Theloniou Monk. But the hours I remember best are the ones I spent, sometimes on my knees, poring over a book I'd never seen before.

I saw books other students carried and I envied them what they must be learning. I branched out of English and the fertile General Fiction section to Drama, Theology, Political Science, Philosophy, and through Ecology to Biology and Geology. No one was watching. I was free to nose through them all. And because I was lucky, and had made a few bucks in the summer, I could occasionally buy one of the books I found.

In my first year, crawling about the General Poetry section, I pulled out Al Purdy's *Selected Poems*. The cover shot took my breath away, with its ghostly rows of trees, and the first poem I glanced at, "Home-Made Beer," had me up to the counter and forking over a few grubby bills. I read and re-read that book.

Another I found was a Penguin edition of *Candide*. No big deal, you say. Common text. Not for me. As a first year student I'd never heard of it, but the cover lured me. I thought it looked short enough to read in a couple of sittings, and I bought it. Didn't hurt a bit. I found Paul Zindel's *The Effect of Gamma Rays on Man-in-the-Moon Marigolds* in the Drama section. With a title like that, and only .95 cents, I snapped it up.

I followed the trail from a story in an anthology to its source: *A Good Man is Hard to Find*, by Flannery O'Connor, then went from General Fiction

to Theology where they kept her letters and complete short stories. Through prof's suggestions and those of friends, I also found Frankel's *Man's Search for Meaning*, Camus's *The Rebel*, and Lewis Thomas's *The Lives of a Cell*.

Sure, there are and have been other bookstores in town, but campus is where I spent, and still spend, most of my time, so the U of S Bookstore is often my go to place. Profs put books on reading lists for their students, but I am often the unintended beneficiary.

Now I've noticed in the TransformUS ranking of departments at the university that the General section of the Bookstore has been put in the fifth quintile. As in other departments so ranked, no one knows exactly what will happen to it. Regarding my favourite part of the Bookstore, no one's called me up to ask for my opinion, but when I saw it put on the endangered species list (I've bought a lot of bird books at the U of S Bookstore, as well), I thought about how much I'd miss it if it was taken away.

So this is my love letter to my favourite part of the U of S Campus. Nostalgic? Probably. Sentimental? Somewhat. But an honest reflection on a good and wide-ranging education that would not have been near what it became without all parts of the U of S Bookstore. That, too. To paraphrase one credit card company's advertisement, there are some things on which you cannot put a price. ■

Bill Robertson teaches creative writing in the Indian Teacher Education Program (ITEP).

In Memoriam

Leo R. Baird, FMD, April 20

Karen A. Heiber, April 21

Hubert C. Johnson, History, April 23

Margaret O. Murphy, Dentistry, May 5

Herbert D. Peters, Psychology, May 14

Dufferin S. Spafford, Political Studies, May 14

Olga Geist, Library, May 17

Karl F. Seemann, Anatomy, May 19

John Hildebrandt, May 20

James D. Horel, May 28

Garth H. Thomas, Mathematics and Statistics, May 29

Alexander Livingston, Veterinary Medicine, June 7

George E. Lee, Agriculture, June 10

James G. Ellis, Agriculture, June 13

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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Introducing the new deans

➤ Preston Smith

Relentless, flexible in restructuring medicine



Preston Smith, dean of medicine.

✎ SUBMITTED

✎ KRIS FOSTER

To be sure, the new dean of medicine at the U of S sees many changes on the horizon for the college but Dr. Preston Smith wonders if there is a group of professionals better prepared for change than doctors.

“Our faculty members don’t treat heart failure the same way as in the past; they fully expect the medicine they practice to be as cutting edge and evidence based as possible, and the medicine we teach should be as well.”

Because medical knowledge and research changes so quickly, so too should the schools teaching it, said Smith who stepped into a five-year term as dean June 1, adding he is ready for the challenges and changes that come with his new role.

“There are a lot of drivers for change in medical education,”

said Smith. “Accreditation is one. Student success on the medical council exams is another. The final thing is Canadian Residency Matching Service competition, and our students’ ability to compete for residency spots across the country. That’s all about the clinical skills.”

But for Smith, it comes down to how fast medical knowledge changes and grows.

“The body of knowledge over time has grown exponentially and so has the curriculum,” explained Smith, who most recently held the position of senior associate dean of education at Dalhousie University’s Faculty of Medicine. “The estimate by some is that the medical database, in terms of research and new information, is doubling every three years.”

In order to keep pace and to address longstanding

structural issues that landed the U of S college on probation with the Committee on Accreditation of Canadian Medical Schools, a vision implementation plan called *The Way Forward*, was created. Turning plan to reality is Smith’s immediate priority.

“We must be relentless and flexible as we move forward in implementing our strategic plan. *The Way Forward* is the entire basis of what we are going to do to change the College of Medicine, get off probation and start becoming a highly competitive research operation,” said Smith, who worked on similar issues at Dalhousie to those faced by the U of S.

“I am certainly at an age and stage in my career that I thought I was ready for this challenge. The job I had at Dal for the last

See *Curriculum*, Page 9

➤ Michelle Prytula

Grounding education in school realities



Michelle Prytula, dean of education.

✎ COLLEEN MACPHERSON

✎ COLLEEN MACPHERSON

Michelle Prytula has never been one to back away from a challenge, including that of assuming the top spot in the College of Education.

The new dean was nominated for the position, and as Prytula noted, “people can’t put something in front of me and expect me not to respond.” So respond she did, recalling how humbling it was “to stand before my peers and tell them why I thought I was suitable.”

What she explained to them was her belief that “a leader understands that the knowledge is in the organization, the knowledge is in the room, the knowledge is found in your membership and in your partners, and I know that and I know how to bring that knowledge out.”

On July 1, Prytula officially

became dean and, on the same day, received tenure and the position of associate professor of education, a remarkable trajectory considering her academic career began just five years ago. The dean was clear that she applied for and earned tenure in a separate process and did not negotiate it as part of the deanship, but she knows battling preconceived notions of what a dean looks like is yet another challenge.

“I know there’s a perception that only long-term academics belong in dean positions and I realize there’s a test here for me, but what I lack in knowledge I will put in the time to learn or make up for with determination and desire for improvement.”

Desire, determination and learning are staples for Prytula who grew up in a French-speaking family in Vonda, Sask. When she expressed an interest in education, her father, a teacher,

advised against it, she said. “He was one of those teachers who always felt there was never enough time to meet the needs of all the kids in the class. He always wanted to do more.”

Prytula heeded his advice and completed a commerce degree but could not deny her passion. After earning an education degree, she taught middle years with Greater Saskatoon Catholic School Division for about eight years before doing a master’s in educational administration. Prytula moved on to in-school administration and was a vice-principal for almost seven years before it was suggested she tackle a doctorate, another challenge to be met head on.

“At first I thought that’s crazy but then I thought, I’ve got an invitation to do a PhD so why

See *Dean*, Page 9

➤ Kishor Wasan

Building on 100 years of pharmacy innovation



Kishor Wasan, dean of pharmacy and nutrition.

✎ KRIS FOSTER

✎ KRIS FOSTER

The Saskatchewan Roughriders were playing for the Grey Cup the Sunday night before Kishor Wasan interviewed for the dean of the College of Pharmacy and Nutrition, and he was watching intently. “I was praying that Saskatchewan would win the Grey Cup so that everyone would be in a good mood for my interview,” joked Wasan.

He took over the office of dean on Aug. 1.

Wasan, who spent the previous 19 years at the University of British Columbia (UBC) where he was a professor and associate dean of research and graduate studies in the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, was reluctant to pursue the position at the U of S because both he and his wife enjoyed successful careers at UBC and were very happy, he said.

“I received a call about the position from the (U of S) provost and was intrigued. That night I was going to speak to my wife about the opportunity,” said Wasan. “Before I could, one of my best friends, who used to work at the U of S, called me and told me all the things going for the university and college.”

Leading up to the interview, Wasan learned a lot about the college’s 100-year history and reputation. “I was completely blown away. This is actually the epicenter for pharmacy practice innovation in Canada, it really is. It is one of the oldest pharmacy schools in Canada and many of the graduates over the 100 years have gone on to be pharmacy-practice innovators and nutrition leaders across the country.”

Wasan was equally impressed with the talented, well-respected and experienced

faculty.

“They are doing important research in diverse areas that are part of university’s signature programs and programs the government wants,” he explained, making particular note of drug adherence, Lean initiatives, the Medication Assessment Centre, and collaborative work with colleagues in chemistry, veterinary medicine and nuclear medical imaging.

The new dean was also impressed with the college’s students. “They are amazing. Our students are top notch and go on to be phenomenal pharmacists ... and while our nutrition program is small, they are seminal leaders in nutrition work. I’m telling you that this college is a pre-eminent college.”

There was a lot that drew

See *Enhanced*, Page 9



COLLEEN MACPHERSON

TAKING SHAPE

The iconic Gordon Oakes-Red Bear Student Centre continues to take shape in Wiggins Court. Work on the building began July 2, 2013 and when complete, it will house space for Aboriginal students including a lounge, a computer lab and offices for the Aboriginal Students' Centre and Aboriginal elders. The centre will also feature a central gathering and ceremonial space as a social hub for all students. The Tyndall stone that will eventually face the building (shown in the foreground) arrived over the summer but construction delays have pushed the opening date of the centre into early 2015. ■



Science in 140 characters

MICHAEL ROBIN



Stephen Urquhart,
Professor
Dept. of Chemistry
Follow me
@urquhart



Andy Potter,
Director and CEO
VIDO
Follow me
@aap53



Joyce McBeth,
Staff scientist
CLS
Follow me
@biogeomicroblog



Matt Lindsay,
Assistant professor
Geological Sciences
Follow me
@mbjlindsay

For non-users, a communications medium that offers only 140 characters might seem marginal at best, but for users in the U of S research community, Twitter is revealing itself to be a valuable tool.

"If you want to stay current, I would argue there is no choice," tweeted Andy Potter (@aap53), director and CEO of the Vaccine and Infectious Disease Organization-International Vaccine Centre (VIDO-InterVac).

Gosia Korbas (@synchrofish), staff scientist at the Canadian Light Source (CLS), agreed.

"Nowadays an online presence is as important as publishing your research," she tweeted.

These benefits also extend into the professional world, although the jury is still out on their extent. A paper published in 2011 in the *Journal of Medical Internet Research* reported that "highly tweeted articles were 11 times more likely to be highly cited than less-tweeted articles." While this was disputed in later work published in 2013 in the *Journal of the Association for Information Science and Technology*, research and discussion on the value of Twitter continues. For example, one article-in-progress in *PeerJ PrePrints* examines the value of the social media tool in helping scientists create and publish ideas throughout the life cycle of a publication.

While hard data may still be forthcoming on its professional benefits, researchers in the U of S community are finding Twitter valuable in other ways, including the ability to touch audiences directly, across boundaries of discipline and even ideology.

"You can directly communicate your research to the public and then observe the ripples it makes," Korbas tweeted, while Potter cites "engagement with those who have different viewpoints, e.g. anti-vaccine folks," as one of the most valuable things he's gotten from Twitter.

"(I've gained) a better appreciation for current research in other disciplines, particularly microbiology," tweeted Matt Lindsay (@mbjlindsay), an assistant professor in the Department of Geological Sciences. "I end up reading science news and blogs about research published in journals outside my discipline."

Jorden Cummings (@jordenc_phd), an assistant professor in the Department of Psychology, followed other scientists from her personal Twitter account before deciding to open another for professional "disseminating and

connecting."

"I think Twitter helps connect with a broad community," she tweeted. "(It's) more affordable than conferences. I'm trying to get my grad students to use it for professional networking as well."

"There is an element of support system to it too, we cheer each other on," tweeted Joyce McBeth (@biogeomicroblog), staff scientist at the CLS. She adds that this professional network extends around the world, "with people I've met in person who are in the same or similar fields but not always."

Twitter's 140-character limit imposes a mental discipline that's valuable for both professors and students.

"Dissemination in 140-character, lay language is a great skill to have," Cummings tweeted.

"Definitely a good skill," tweeted Grant Ferguson (@geosomething), an associate professor in the Department of Civil and Geological Engineering. "I've made students compose tweets offline to see if they grasp a concept."

Like any social media tool, Twitter has its hazards. Stephen Urquhart (@urquhart), a professor in the Department of Chemistry, warns of fanatics and trolls – users who delight in starting pointless arguments to provoke other users.

"(It's) challenging to differentiate between opportunities for real debate and trolls," he tweeted, "Sometimes a hard call, (but) we have a professional responsibility to defend and clarify the scientific process."

McBeth suggested users deny trolls the attention they crave by ignoring them.

"There is no bad publicity," she tweeted. "By engaging, we bring (trolls) credibility, and I don't want to do that!"

Another concern is the amount of time Twitter can add to already busy schedules, but this need not be an issue.

"(Twitter takes) minimal time – heck, I am lying on my bed right now! (It's) well worth the benefits," Potter tweeted. "As with anything; budget the time. (It's) also a great way to remain productive at airports, etc."

For researchers that are intrigued but unsure of how to proceed, McBeth advised finding a veteran to help.

"It helps to come in with an open mind and a mentor to help you build a network and learn the culture," she tweeted. ■

Around the Bowl

New server makes registration a breeze

Gail Shivak has moved to the position of presidential development officer in Advancement and Community Engagement. Formerly associate director of corporate relations, Shivak will support the university president and vice-presidents in creating conditions that attract significant philanthropic investments.



Shivak



Biligetu

Bill Biligetu took up the position of assistant professor, forage breeding in the Dept. of Plant Sciences, College of Agriculture and Bioresources, on May 1. Biligetu is from Inner Mongolia, China where he attended the Inner Mongolia Agriculture University and completed a BSc in grassland science and a MSc in rangeland management in 2000 and 2003 respectively. In 2009, he completed a PhD in perennial forage management and physiology at the U of S.



Wheeler

Winona Wheeler, head of the Dept. of Native Studies, was voted president elect of the Native American and Indigenous Studies Association.

Terry Wotherspoon, head of the Dept. of Sociology, has been elected president elect of the Canadian Sociological Association (CSA). Wotherspoon previously served on the CSA executive as managing editor of the association's journal, the *Canadian Review of Sociology*.

Natalia Khanenko-Friesen, an associate professor of St. Thomas More College and head of the Dept. of Religion and Culture, is the inaugural editor of the university's *Engaged Scholar Journal*, the first Canadian peer-reviewed, multi-disciplinary, open access scholarly journal on community-university engagement and scholarship.



Khanenko-Friesen

The University Library has announced the appointment of **Shannon Lucky** as IT Librarian. Lucky recently completed a master's degree in library science and digital humanities at the U of A.



Lucky

Jeff Dumba, former director of Student Accounts and Treasury, was named associate vice-president, Financial Services.



Dumba

Prior to joining the U of S in 2013, Dumba worked with HSBC as head of One HSBC Loans and Mortgages, and with other organizations in the banking sector, agriculture and the armed forces. He holds an MA in economics and a BSc in physics from the U of S.

The Professional Association of Interns and Residents of Saskatchewan (PAIRS) has announced the 2014 winners of the PAIRS Excellence in Teaching Awards. They are: **Dr. Andrew Urmson**, Dept. of Surgery, Division of Orthopedics, Saskatoon; **Dr. Erik Engelbrecht**, Dept. of Emergency Medicine, North Battleford; **Dr. Femi Olatunbosun**, Dept. of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Saskatoon; **Dr. Rashmi Bhargava**, Dept. of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Regina; and **Dr. Wojciech Olszynski**, Rheumatology, Saskatoon.

Mabood Qureshi, associate professor and clinical biochemist in the Dept. of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, College of Medicine, received the 2014 CSCC Award for Education Excellence at the annual conference of the Canadian Society of Clinical Chemists in June. The award recognizes distinguished, long standing and substantial contributions that pertain to laboratory medicine in the areas of teaching, research and practice.

The Canadian Academy of Engineering (CAE) has inducted **Ding-Yu Peng**, professor in the Dept. of Chemical and Biological Engineering, as a fellow. The CAE is a self-governing non-profit organization that provides strategic advice on matters of importance in Canada. Peng was recognized for his work in thermodynamics and, with D.B. Robinson, for being the first to predict the properties of complex petroleum fluids at various conditions.



Peng

Heather Dawson has assumed the role of events co-ordinator in Advancement and Community Engagement (ACE) for a two-year term. Dawson is formerly the communications and alumni relations officer in the College of Pharmacy and Nutrition. Also in ACE, **Sandra Duarte** has been named donor relations officer in the College of Arts and Science. She was previously executive assistant to the associate deans in the college.



Crosson

Corporate Administration has appointed **Tom Crosson** as manager of Risk Management and Insurance Services. His previous experience includes Canadian and international positions in risk management, treasury, supply chain management and finance in industries including manufacturing, engineering, aerospace, energy, consulting, banking and insurance.

Mark Roman acknowledges that registering for classes at the University of Saskatchewan hasn't always been a walk in the park, but that all changed this year.



Roman

"Thousands of students attempting to register for classes at the same time put a colossal strain on our registration system—until now," said Roman, chief information officer and associate vice-president of Information and Communications Technology (ICT) at the U of S.

ICT staff recently signed a new campus-wide software license agreement and implemented a major server upgrade, he explained. These changes allowed ICT to harness enough power to ensure most students who registered for fall and winter classes would find it to be a fairly effortless process.

"By implementing this new licensing model, the ICT team maximized our server capacity enabling us to have the most

successful registration in our history of online registration," said Roman.

The upgrade allowed the new server to be solely used for student registration. This in turn allowed a greater number of students to register in a shorter time period. The new system was put to the test, reaching its limit on a couple of occasions, but never came close to crashing, said Roman.

To reduce the risk of the

registration system crashing, students are given a registration access date and time. This year there were 12 registration windows.

About 1,000 students were successfully registered in their classes just 15 minutes after one of the registration windows opened; it took an hour for those numbers to be reached last year, according to Roman.

"I'm told we had a few worried students phone in," said Roman. "Registering for classes was so easy they thought something had gone wrong, but it hadn't."

Word of the efficiency of the system spread across social media, affirming the positive experience.

"Delighted to say class registration was a record time this year, only took me 10 minutes," said @carlyvmorris on Twitter.

"It's a good feeling to be registered in the classes I wanted!" said @shortie_emma on Twitter. ■



CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Saskatchewan Health Research Foundation

ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Through the annual Achievement Award, the Saskatchewan Health Research Foundation honours those individuals who inspire us with their drive, leadership, and ingenuity.

From basic science discoveries to visionary health policy, Saskatchewan health researchers contribute to the well-being of the people of this province, our nation, and our world.

Join us in celebrating Saskatchewan's health research leaders during Health Research Week at the SHRF Santé! Awards Evening, December 4, 2014 in Saskatoon. Nominate someone deserving today! Nomination forms are available from the SHRF office or at www.shrf.ca.

Deadline for nominations is October 15, 2014.



www.shrf.ca

Building a healthy Saskatchewan through health research

New 'old' seats in Airplane Room



The new seats in Thorv 271, left, replicate the 1924 originals.

KRIS FOSTER

It's out with the old, and in with the new "old" as the lecture theatre Thorvaldson 271, familiar to many as the Airplane Room, undergoes a seating renovation.

The almost 300 wooden seats in the room, which are as old as the building itself (what was then called the Chemistry Building opened in 1924), are being replaced with exact replicas as part of the university's classroom enhancement program. Produced by Hy-Grade Millwork Ltd. of Saskatoon, the new chairs of stained maple bottoms and birch plywood backs will maintain the historic character of one of the best-known spaces on the U of S campus.

Andrew Wallace, associate director of space planning in the Facilities Management Division and an expert on historic preservation, said the accepted approach for replacing features like the Thorvaldson 271 seats is called replacement "in kind," meaning

the materials and design are as close a match as possible to the original.

Unfortunately, the old seats are elm and regulatory limitations mean that wood is not available for the replacements. But, carpenters are carefully disassembling the old chairs and reusing the original metal brackets that connect the seat, back and writing tablet together and then to the original metal pedestals.

The \$140,000 replacement project, funded from the annual capital renewal fund, was necessary because the screws that secure the chairs to their pedestals were stripping and pulling out at a rate that was difficult to keep up with, Wallace said.

He added no decision has been made yet about whether the new chairs will be numbered like the old ones. "We are still looking into whether the numbers are original. The plan is to wait until the project is finished and see how it looks before making a decision." ■

Dedicated to supporting Aboriginal students

COLLEEN MACPHERSON

Many people ask Graeme Joseph how he ended up at the University of Saskatchewan, and the answer is simple: he wanted to work for an institution where Aboriginal education "is a very clear priority."

Joseph assumed the position of team leader of First Nations, Métis and Inuit Student Success in the Aboriginal Student Centre (ASC) May 15, having spent the previous 14 years engaging with Aboriginal students at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver. And he views his new role at the U of S as a continuation and expansion of that work.

"I've dedicated my life to serving Aboriginal people and supporting Aboriginal students," he said, "looking for ways to provide them with a



Graeme Joseph, team leader of First Nations, Métis and Inuit Student Success.

COLLEEN MACPHERSON

quality education while helping them maintain their cultural identity."

As team leader, Joseph sees three main responsibilities in his work. First is providing leadership to the student services

team in the ASC. The second is building on existing relationships between the ASC and others across campus who also provide services to Aboriginal students.

"What we want is a conti-

num of support," he said, "starting when they are prospective students all the way to when they are alumni. There are much wider conversations that need to take place" to develop an integrated strategy to ensure the university is recruiting well-qualified students and that social, academic and financial barriers to post-secondary education are overcome.

"We need a greater understanding of the student experience using student data," he said, with the goal of strategic, systematic and sustainable supports "built right into the university. This is ongoing work and will require ongoing relationships to accomplish."

Joseph, who is a member of the House of Gitksan from

northwestern British Columbia, said his third priority will revolve around establishing and maintaining various programs and services in the Gordon Oakes - Red Bear Student Centre which is set to open in 2015. The centre "is going to be the hub with spokes or connections extending out across campus to everyone who works with Aboriginal students to create this system of support."

Through his work, Joseph said he will help ensure Aboriginal education "is woven into the fabric of the institution, is just part of its character." One heartening sign is that since he joined the U of S, "there's been a lot of change and that's challenging, but the Aboriginal priority hasn't fallen off the table." ■

Surveys help pinpoint red tape hot spots

COLLEEN MACPHERSON

Red tape, that ubiquitous reality of doing business, can be annoying at best and, at worst, a frustrating hinderance to getting done what needs to get done. At the University of Saskatchewan, it is an issue being tackled by the Red Tape Commission and while the group does not promise it can untangle all the snags, it hopes to help streamline some processes or explain why others are necessary.

Law Professor Beth Bilson chairs the commission, which was established in the current

integrated plan. Its mandate is to identify the pressure points for employees and students, and do what it can to find resolution "but we're under no illusion we can address everyone's pet peeves," she said.

Using the results of two recent surveys—one for faculty and staff, and one for students—the four members of the commission have been able to identify some of what Bilson termed "hot spots" when it comes to red tape. For students, those spots seems to be processes like registra-

tion, transfer credits and course overrides. The survey responses also mentioned academic advising and trouble with things like getting appointments, she said, concerns she has discussed with academic advising group on campus.

Faculty and staff identified a wide range of issues in their survey responses, she said. They include the speed (or lack of) with which expense claims are paid, the new travel system "which has what you might call mixed reviews,"

“ We’re under no illusion we can address everyone’s pet peeves. ”

Beth Bilson

PCard accounting and the complexity of the purchasing system. Over the coming months, committee members will be meeting with various



Bilson

See *Red*, Page 10

Curriculum to emphasize clinical training

Preston Smith

From Page 5

five years was a second-in-command role and we did a lot of similar things that need to be done here," he said. "That's why I think I have the experience needed here."

On the research front, the College of Medicine has been underperforming for sometime, and the faculty complement requires a reconfiguration to put more emphasis on clinician scientists, he explained.

"That's not to take away from existing faculty... but if you look across the country, the places that are really successful have a core of physician researchers working collaboratively with the basic science

researchers."

The first step towards increased research productivity is to recruit a vice-dean of research who is "truly a leader in that arena." The vice-dean will lead the development of a strategic plan for research with the goal of creating a core of "clinician scientists, doctors and biomedical scientists who work together."

But the U of S college restructuring goes beyond research with an additional focus on medical education.

"There used to be a culture in medicine that as long as you were a doctor you could be a teacher, but now there is growing body of understanding and evidence that training a doctor is a complex process," said Smith, whose background is in medical education. "The

Way Forward commits us to hiring more faculty members who are experts in medical education. That's a big step forward and aligned with my interest and values."

Hand-in-hand with recruiting more medical educators is a revamp of the curriculum—specifically moving to what is known as 2+2 curriculum with two years of pre-clinical training followed by two years of clinical training. The old curriculum included about two-and-a-half years of pre-clinical and one-and-a-half years of clinical work for medical students.

"The emphasis on getting

“When people in Saskatchewan read about us in the paper, they will take pride in the accomplishments of our medical school.

Preston Smith

more and more clinical knowledge into medical school is why we're moving to this curriculum."

The curriculum change will better prepare students for the Medical Council of Canada exams. "These exams have an increased emphasis on practical clinical knowledge and the ability to apply it as opposed to recite knowledge from a textbook. So if that's where the exam is going, then our curric-

ulum had better be going that direction as well."

All of these changes will take time, but in the big picture, Smith likes what he sees.

"We will be off probation, there is no doubt in my mind. Our College of Medicine will be known for serving its community, the entire province of Saskatchewan, better than any other Canadian medical school. That means we train the right doctors for the right communities and we have innovative research programs that bring in external research dollars, which drives the economy. When people in Saskatchewan read about us in the paper, they will take pride in the accomplishments of our medical school." ■

Dean knows expectations of the province

Michelle Prytula

From Page 5

wouldn't I?"

Back to university she went, and wrote her dissertation while working as a school principal and raising her own young family. "Then, as soon as I defended my thesis, I was invited to apply for a position in the college.

"It was a tough decision to move to the university," she said, having spent 15 years teaching, nurturing learning communities in schools, building partnerships and encouraging teachers to be leaders "but I like the challenge of always doing something that's harder than what you've done before."

Prytula joined the college in 2009 as an assistant professor with a goal of achieving tenure

in five years. "I really started to love what I was doing, research around teachers and developing partnerships I didn't have time to build as a principal." In addition to teaching, she worked with the Saskatchewan Educational Leadership Unit and provided professional development to school divisions and First Nations.

"I realized if I, and the college, listened well, I could really tailor what I knew and offer it as help. It made me realize I have more of a responsibility now. The university has responsibility, through research and teaching, to listen to Saskatchewan and help it be stronger and better. I felt I had a role I could play there."

In May 2013, Prytula was encouraged by colleagues to apply for the position of associate dean for undergraduate programs, partnerships

“I think we have an opportunity, and it's a rare one, to produce the best teachers.

Michelle Prytula

and research. "I dismissed it entirely, being only in my third year, but I was asked too often to not take it seriously."

In the year she spent in the job, Prytula said she developed a clearer understanding of the expectations placed on the college by the province.

"The ministry (of education) has given the university the task of educating teachers. We're here because normal schools aren't any more. I take that responsibility seriously because it influences how we think about

teacher education. We're not here to imagine some utopian university idea of what teaching ought to be that's isolated from reality. Yes, we want to use what we know to improve teaching ... (and) we will always improve but we must never, never lose sight of who it is we're serving. And understanding the context and complexities of the province is paramount."

Prytula admits she has been criticized for having her feet too firmly planted on the ground for an institution of high-level academic thinking "but it's a balance. Without balance, we stop being useful and stop serving our primary mandate which is ensuring the highest-quality teachers possible for Saskatchewan as it is right now, and for what we want it to become. I'm a bit preachy about that but it's important."

Maintaining that balance

between the ideals of the college's education program introduced last year and the realities of today's classroom is a high priority for the new dean.

"By knowing what it is we're supposed to be doing, by listening to our partners, by listening to the mandate of education, I think we have an opportunity, and it's a rare one, to produce the best teachers. I have been able to influence changes to the (education) program that really ground it" and she plans to continue while at the same time acknowledging it has to be a collective effort.

"I can't set a priority for everyone ... but my purpose here is listening, taking the expertise we have through research, understanding the context of Saskatchewan – provincial and First Nations – and using all of that to make us stronger." ■

Enhanced resources a priority for Wasan

Kishor Wasan

From Page 5

him to the college, Wasan said, adding that he will not make the mistake of making changes just for the sake of change. "This college has been so successful for 100 years. They must be doing something right, so I am not going to come in and make wholesale changes. But what I am going to try to do is enhance, support and mentor our faculty and students to give

“I need to work with our faculty members and help them get the dollars they need to do great research.

Kishor Wasan

them the chance to aspire to their dreams."

But his disinterest in major changes does not signal a lack of priorities. Wasan mentioned

three that will receive his immediate attention.

"Number one is I need to enhance resources for the college. We need more grant funding and operational funds because we are dealing with some big issues. We are going to a doctoral pharmacy program

from a bachelor of science in pharmacy and we are also working on accreditation for nutrition dietician program as well as the pharmacy program

in 2015 and 2016, respectively. So these are high priorities for the college, university, government and our external partners"

Research and scholarly activity are other priority areas, he said. "If we want to be a true U15 university, and be competitive in research and scholarly activity, we need to continue to build that and recruit the best and brightest graduate students. So I need to work with our faculty members and help them get the dollars they need to do great research."

And when all of that comes together, Wasan said it is very important to focus on sharing all the good news with the campus community and beyond.

"The great thing about the U of S and college is we are amazing, humble, down-to-earth people. That's what I love. But it hurts too because you don't brag about yourselves and the great things that are happening. I've told everybody that I will be the chief bragger and show off for you because everyone needs to know." ■

Coming Events

■ Conferences

Indigenizing Practice

Former Prime Minister Paul Martin and Be'sha Blondin from the Sahtú Region of the Northwest Territories are keynote speakers at wáhkôhtowin: Indigenizing Practice in Post-Secondary Education, Linking Kindred Spirits Sept. 18-20 on campus. For information or to register, visit www.usask.ca/wahkohtowin2014

■ Seminars/Lectures

All My Relations: Aboriginal Education and the Future

Sept. 18, 7:30 pm, Mayfair United Church, St. Andrew's College will host former Prime Minister The Right Hon. Paul Martin in a dialogue on challenges and issues facing Aboriginal education in Canada entitled All My Relations: Aboriginal Education and the Future. Tickets are available at www.picatic.com/allmyrelations or by calling 306-966-8970.

Timlin Lecture in Economics

Sept. 22, 7:30-9:30 pm, Room 241 Arts, Miles Corak, professor of economics with the Graduate School of Public and International Affairs at the University of Ottawa, will present the 2014 Timlin Lecture in Economics entitled Inequality and its Discontents.

Library Dean's Research Lecture

Sept. 16, 2:30 pm, Convocation Hall, Bruce Kingma of Syracuse University will deliver the 2014 University Library Dean's Research Lecture entitled Understanding the Value Proposition of the Academic Library, a review of the current research on and tools for measuring library value.

Research Lecture in Music

Sept. 10, 12:30 pm, Quance Theatre, Glen Gillis of the Dept. of Music, presents Saxophone Sound Spectrum: Compose-Comission-Collaborate, part of the the Fine Arts Research Lecture Series in music. For more information contact Kathleen Solose at 306-966-6179.

Spectacle: The Art of the Event

Steve Brown, professor from Flinder's University, Adelaide, Australia, will give a lecture and workshop entitled Spectacle: The Art of the Event, a discussion of the complex cultural contexts of spectacle: how happenings, interventions, flash mobs and cultural rituals are created, and how ritual, story telling, political satire, social critique and creative expression

are used in various festivals, parades, expositions and international mega events such as Mardi Gras, Carnival, Burning Man and Day of the Dead.

- Lecture, Sept. 11, 7-8:30 pm, Frances Morrison Library
- Workshop, Sept. 12, 1-4 pm, Prairie Room, Diefenbaker Canada Centre. To register, contact Alison Norlen at alison.norlen@usask.ca

■ Courses/Workshops

Continuing Professional Learning Medicine

For more information call 306-966-7787 or go to www.usask.ca/cme

- Sept. 19-20, Dermatology Conference, Regina
- Oct. 3 and 4, Essentials of ECG
- Oct. 17-18, Saskatchewan Emergency Medicine Annual Conference, Regina
- Nov. 1-2, Advanced Cardiac Life Support Provider and Renewal Course
- Nov. 21 and 22, Practical Management of Common Medical Problems

Centre for Continuing and Distance Education

For more information, visit www.cce.usask.ca or call 306-966-5539

Language Centre

For information or to register call 306-966-4351

Multilingual Conversational Language Classes Sept. 15-Nov. 25:

- Sept. 15 to Nov. 25, 2014
- French levels 1 to 8: \$210 (GST exempt)
- Italian level 1: \$220.50 (GST included)
- Spanish levels 1 to 7: \$220.50 (GST included)
- German level 1: \$220.50 (GST included)
- Japanese levels 1, 2 & 4: \$220.50 (GST included)
- Japanese for the Traveller: \$241.50 (textbook and GST included)
- Cree level 1: \$231 (class materials & GST included.)

Textbooks and workbooks are extra (excluding Japanese for the Traveller and Cree 1)

If you have not taken multilingual classes, call 306-966-4351 or email reception.uslc@usask.ca for a language assessment.

- Spanish Weekender for Real Beginners Oct. 17 and 18, 20 hours over 2.5 days. Cost is \$294 (GST included), textbooks and workbooks included.

Nature and Ecology

Public information nights Sept. 17 and Oct. 1 from 7-8:30 pm each night for Southern

Africa: 21-Day Northern Explorer Ecological Safari which takes place Feb. 1-21, 2015.

Room 224/225, Williams Building, 221 Cumberland Avenue North. The information night is free. To register for the Southern Africa tour, call 306-966-5539

Edwards School of Business, Executive Education

For information call 306-966-8686, email execed@edwards.usask.ca or visit edwards.usask.ca/execed

- Sept. 4 - 5, Process Mapping and Process Improvement Course
- Sept. 8 - 9, Analyzing and Improving Office and Service Operations (Lean Office) Course
- Sept. 10, Edwards Seminar Series, Unpacking High Performance
- Sept. 14 - 19, The Labour-Management Relations Certificate Program
- Sept. 16 - Dec. 16, Introduction to Operations Management
- Sept. 24 - 26, Digital and Social Media Program: Digital Communication and Advertising
- Sept. 30 - Oct. 2, The Business Analyst's Course
- Oct. 8 - 10, Team Leadership Skills for Project Managers
- Oct. 15 - 17, The Project Management Course
- Oct. 20 - 21, Certificate in Essentials of Modelling and Problem Solving: Course 1 - Regina
- Oct. 21 - Nov. 25, Leadership Development Program
- Oct. 21, 2014 - March 21, 2015, The Masters Certificate in Project Management - Regina
- Oct. 22, 2014 - April 11, 2015, The Masters Certificate in Project Management
- Oct. 30 - 31, Process Metrics, Management and Controls
- Nov. 3 - 4, Master Clinic on Solving Tough Problems
- Nov. 6, Women of Influence Breakfast
- Nov. 26 - 28, Digital and Social Media Program: Metrics, Measurement and Analytics
- Dec. 2 - 4, Certificate in Essentials of Modelling and Problem Solving: Course 2 - Regina
- Dec. 3 - 5, What the Non-Financial Manager Needs to Know About Financial and Managerial Accounting

■ Miscellany

Smart Start

The University Learning Centre is offering a weeklong series of academic workshops

called Start Smart Sept. 22-26 on topics like study skills and writing and technology help to assist with students' academic success. Details about the sessions, along with resources and tips for new and returning students can be found at usask.ca/ulc/smartstart or email smartstart@usask.ca

Knowledge Mobilization

A panel discussion entitled Knowledge Mobilization: Who does it and what does it look like? will be held Sept. 24 from 8-10 am at Station 20 West. Panelists include Bonnie Zink, Michael Robin, Robert Henry and Tracy Ridalls. The discussion will explore knowledge mobilization and how it can affect positive social change.

■ The Arts

Milne Exhibit

Work by the late Saskatchewan photographer Courtney Milne will be on view in the Link Gallery in the Library starting Sept. 2 and continuing until the end of the calendar year.

A Suburb Sinner

Work by printmaker, sculptor and installation artist Mackenzie Browning will be on view Sept. 2-12 at the Gordon Snelgrove Gallery in an MFA exhibition entitled *A Suburb Sinner*. The work deconstructs the suburban landscape and its often-mundane materials. A closing reception will be held Sept. 11 from 7-10 pm in the gallery.

Elixir Ensemble

The Elixir Ensemble begins its season Oct. 19 at 2:30 pm in Convocation Hall with a performance of a Beethoven piano quartet, Mozetich scales and a Paul Joun piano quartet. Visit the Elixir website for details and tickets.

Piano Recital

The Department of Music and the Italian Cultural Institute presenta recital by Cristiana Pegoraro, Italian pianist and composer, Sept. 19 at 7:30 pm in Convocation Hall. Pegoraro is an accomplished pianist who has performed in some of the most important halls in Europe, the U.S., South America, the Middle East and Australia. She has recorded for radio and television worldwide and her extensive discography includes albums of her own compositions as well as Latin American music. The recital is free and everyone is welcome.

ICCC Film Series

The Interdisciplinary Centre for Culture and Creativity (ICCC) and the Broadway

Theatre present *How to Lose Your Virginity* Sept. 16 at 7 pm at the Broadway Theatre. Doors open at 6:30 pm and the film will be followed by a discussion led by Marie Lovrod, program co-ordinator of Women's and Gender Studies.

College Art Galleries

Opening Sept. 26 is *Ursula Johnson: Mi'kwite'tmn (Do You Remember)*. The exhibition examines ideas of ancestry, identity and cultural practice through Johnson's creation of non-functional forms from Mi'kmaw basketry.

Amati Quartet and Friends

The U of S Amati Quartet will be performing a range of works with a number of local musicians in a concert entitled Amati Quartet and Friends Oct. 13 at 2 and 7:30 pm in Knox United Church. Tickets are available from the Remai Arts Centre. More information is available at amatiquartet.usask.ca

■ Huskies @ Home

Football

Sept. 5 vs. Manitoba
Sept. 19 vs. Calgary
Oct. 4 vs. UBC
Oct. 23 vs. Alberta

Men's Soccer

Sept. 6 and 7 vs. Calgary
Oct. 3 and 5 vs. Alberta
Oct. 11 and 12 vs. Winnipeg

Women's Soccer

Sept. 13 vs. MRU
Sept. 14 vs. Alberta
Oct. 3 and 5 vs. Lethbridge
Oct. 18 and 19 vs. Regina

Cross Country

Oct. 4, Sled Dog Open

■ SUBMIT
Coming Events

Next OCN: Friday, Sept. 12
Deadline: Sept. 4

Email ocn@usask.ca

Red Tape Commission will conclude its work with report, recommendations to provost

From Page 8

administrative departments to share the results and discuss potential solutions.

There were also a number of red-tape issues identified in research processes like the complexity of setting up research accounts and administration of those accounts. The number of signatures needed on various forms also got quite a few mentions. "People accept the rationale for accountability," she said, "but they question whether the way the system works now satisfies that objective."

She added a recent meeting with research services managers to talk about the survey findings

was fruitful; "any avenue they might pursue to streamline things they're very interested in."

Eliminating red tape appears, in some cases, to be relatively straightforward, said Bilson. One example she gave related to copyright compliance and the need to complete paper forms rather than fill them in online. "Isn't that a bit old fashioned?" she wondered. But there are processes that require paper forms and original signatures in order to satisfy the university auditor; in cases like this, change is simply not an option.

Bilson said the measures of success for the commission will be in either providing an explana-

tion for why red tape exists "that people find compelling" or being able "to make a good enough case for doing things a different way.

"It's not realistic to suppose we're going to transform the face of the university and eliminate all bureaucracy; we don't have the power to do anything but recommend. There are people with the unrealistic idea that any requirements for forms, rules or standards are a bother but most understand the any organization has to have parameters."

She added there is "a fair bit of cynicism about whether the university is actually listening." Being able to address some red tape issues will be a step in dispelling that idea.

The commission is working on a website to allow more comments about red tape, and it is considering using focus groups to glean more detail about pressure points in peoples' work lives. Of particular interest to Bilson and her colleagues is the situation of young faculty and ensuring "what the univer-

sity has set up to support them is not simply creating more hurdles for them."

After it has completed mining of the survey results and meeting with the appropriate people across campus to discuss red tape, the commission will make its recommendations in a final report to the provost. ■

OCN Publishing Schedule

No.	Issue Date	Deadline Date
2	Sept. 12, 2014	Sept. 4, 2014
3	Sept. 26, 2014	Sept. 18, 2014
4	Oct. 10, 2014	Oct. 2, 2014
5	Oct. 24, 2014	Oct. 16, 2014



A wild boar captured on a trail-cam in Saskatchewan

Sounding the alarm about wild boar threat

✍ MICHAEL ROBIN

They only come out at night, harassing livestock, spreading disease and rototilling parks, fields and wildlife habitat before vanishing into cover before dawn.

"I don't think many people in Saskatchewan are aware of how severe the impacts of feral wild boar can be," said University of Saskatchewan researcher Ryan Brook, who has just published what he believes to be the first peer-reviewed scientific study of the animals in Canada.

"Feral boar are quite elusive and primarily nocturnal so many people have boar (in their area) and don't know it."

Brook has been sounding the alarm about the dangers of feral wild boar since he arrived at the University of Saskatchewan in 2010. His latest research, with colleague Floris van Beest from Aarhus University in Denmark, shows the animals have become established right across the province – and the clock is ticking on getting them under control.

"Feral boar are widespread but most likely at low densities so as of right now, total impacts are probably generally low," Brook said. "The big concern is what will happen in the near future if the boar population continues to expand and increase."

Imported as an alternative livestock option for farmers in

the 1990s, wild boar have easily adapted to Saskatchewan's harsh climate. They have one of the highest reproductive rates of any large animal, with sows producing two litters of six or more piglets every year.

"If nothing is done then we risk having more feral boar than people in the province and at that point the costs of taking action are far greater," Brook said. "Early action will have huge economic savings."

Wild boar have made their presence known in various parts of the province. The area in and near Moose Mountain Provincial Park is a particular hot spot, where local ranchers and farmers have banded together to hunt them in a formal eradication program.

But little was known about wild boar distribution over the entire province until Brook and van Beest surveyed all 296 Saskatchewan rural municipalities. Although the animals are mostly active at night, there were enough sightings to determine that feral wild boar likely exist in 70 per cent of the province's RMs.

The researchers also observed that control plans are spotty and sporadic across the country, and call for "aggressive and co-ordinated action" both across Canada and the neighbouring U.S. states to meet the threat. Brook explained that

sport hunting has little impact on population growth, so provincial and municipal authorities will need to consider aggressive options such as hunting from aircraft, at night, using trained dogs and ground trapping.

"We'll probably need all of these in the tool box to be reasonably effective," Brook said. Since some of these options are not currently legal in Saskatchewan, the solution will require both legislation and a public policy response. There also needs to be tighter regulations on how wild boar are farmed in the province.

"Certainly right now the production of domestic wild boar is really unregulated, so you have some operations that are very well run and follow or exceed provincial guidelines, while others have major security issues," Brook said, citing one 2013 example where about 400 wild boar escape from a ranch in southeast Saskatchewan.

Brook stressed that any solution must include active partnership with farmers, hunters and other rural stakeholders, especially since they are the eyes and ears of an effective control program.

"When people are actively engaged in the issue and their knowledge is used and respected, they are much more likely to be actively involved in addressing the problem." ■

Around the Bowl

The following announcements have been made by the Office of the Provost and Vice-President Academic:



White

• **Tom Steele** appointed head of the Department of Physics and Engineering Physics for a five-year term ending June 30, 2019.

• **Dr. Gill White** extended as acting vice-dean, medical education for the period of up to one year beginning July 1.

• **Jim Handy** reappointed as head of the Department of History for a two-year term effective July 1.

• **Jay Wilson** named head of the Department of Curriculum Studies in the College of Education for a five-year term.

• **Beverly Brenna** appointed to the position of acting associate dean, undergraduate education, partnerships and research in the College of Education until June 30, 2015.



Wilson

• **Lisa Vargo** reappointed as head of the Department of English for two years starting July 1.

• **Dr. Barry Blakely** appointed acting head of the Department of Veterinary Microbiology and Veterinary Pathology until Dec. 31.

• **Peter Alward** appointed head of the Department of Philosophy for a five-year term effective July 1.

• **Dr. Athena McConnell** appointed acting assistant dean, quality, in the College of Medicine for up to six months.

• **Dianne Miller** extended as head of the Department of Educational Foundations to June 30, 2015.

• **Joe Garcea** appointed head of the Department of Political Studies until June 30, 2015.

• **Aaron Phoenix** extended as acting associate dean academic in the College of Engineering to Dec. 31.

• **Martin Phillipson** extended until Dec. 31 as vice-provost, College of Medicine organizational restructuring.



Miller

• **Dr. John Campbell** reappointed head of the Department of Large Animal Clinical Sciences for a three-year term effective July 1.

• **Leon Wegner** appointed head of the Department of Civil and Geological Engineering for a five-year term effective July 1.



Huq

• **Mobinul Huq** appointed as acting head of the Department of Economics until Dec. 31.

• **Ken Van Rees** appointed acting head of the Department of Soil Science until Dec. 31.

• **Dr. Gillian Muir** appointed head of the Department of Veterinary Biomedical Sciences for a five-year term starting July 1.

• **Douglas Thorpe** appointed head of the Department of Drama for a two-year term until June 30, 2016.

• **Mary Ellen Andrews** extended as acting associate dean, North and North Western campus and rural and remote engagement, College of Nursing, until June 30, 2015.



Thorpe

• **Dr. Meredith McKague** appointed acting assistant dean, academic, College of Medicine for a term of up to six months.

• **Dr. Gordon McKay** extended as acting vice-dean, research, College of Medicine for a period of up to six months beginning July 1.

• **Dr. Sheila Harding** extended until June 30, 2015 as associate dean, undergraduate medical education, College of Medicine.

• **Dr. Joseph Blondeau** reappointed as acting unified head of the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, College of Medicine, effective July 1 for up to one year.

• **Raj Srinivasan** extended as head of the Dept. of Mathematics and Statistics, College of Arts and Science until July 30, 2015.



Muhajarine

• **Lawrence Martz** appointed acting vice-dean, social sciences, in the College of Arts and Science until June 30, 2015.

• **Dr. Nazeem Muhajarine** appointed acting executive director, School of Public Health until June 30, 2015.



Srinivasan





discover **US**

This year's back-page feature explores the hidden treasures from University Archives and Special Collections, and the people who use them.

Where science meets art

Ken Van Rees is a professor and director of the Centre for Northern Agroforestry and Afforestation. His specialization is in forest soils, and in the course of his research, he has had the opportunity to explore a variety of boreal ecosystems, including that of Canada's far North.

In July-September 1927, Group of Seven member A.Y. Jackson was part of the first Canadian government expedition to the Arctic. His painting and chilling sketches of "the land beyond summer" illustrate the same geography that Van Rees experienced decades later.

These two forces—the art of science and the science of art—both occurred in the same desolate space, and converged in the University Archives and Special Collections. Van Rees enthusiastically compared his own memories of the area to its depiction in Jackson's sketches, such as those contained in the book shown here.

