

## ELEVENTH PRESIDENT

Peter Stoicheff will be officially installed as the 11th president and vice-chancellor of the University of Saskatchewan at Fall Convocation on October 24, 2015. The first day of his five-year term will be Monday, October 26. Read about Stoicheff's vision and ambitions for the U of S on Page 6.



DAVID STOBBE

# Probation lifted for the College of Medicine

## Accreditation for medical education program extended to 2018

With the Oct. 16 news of probation being rescinded for the U of S College of Medicine undergraduate medical education program, almost two years of tireless effort have paid off.

"It was fantastic to receive this news," said Dr. Preston Smith, dean of the College of Medicine. "Certainly it's great news, but it was also a necessary and expected step for the college."

Smith said the accreditation decision—delivered by letter from the school's accreditors, the Committee on the Accreditation of Canadian Medical Schools and its American equivalent, the Liaison Committee on Medical Education—was the result of a May 2015 site visit when accreditors evaluated progress on 13 specific standards previously cited as deficient.

Smith said that the college

is now partially or completely compliant with 10 of those 13 standards—meaning it is compliant in 98 per cent, or 129 of the 132, of the Canadian undergraduate medical education accreditation standards.

"This is the result of a lot of concentrated effort by many people over the last two years. We've been able to demonstrate to the accreditors that we've made significant progress," said the dean.

Spirits in the college are high with word that probation has been lifted and accreditation status has been extended until March 2018, instead of 2017 as previously indicated, but Smith



Dr. Preston Smith, dean of the College of Medicine.

DAVID STOBBE

said that there is still more work that needs to be done.

"We are absolutely heading in the right direction, down the right path. We can't stop; we need to keep pushing forward to realize the full vision for the college," he said. "Our responsibility to the province and its citizens is to train the next generation of physicians to enhance and, through research,

to innovate clinical care for the people of Saskatchewan."

To that end, Smith continued, members of the university who have been working to ensure the college delivers on accreditation standards will now shift their attention to the next full accreditation visit slated to take place in the fall of 2017.

"I'm confident that we are well on our way there," said Smith,

**“ This is the result of a lot of concentrated effort by many people over the last two years.**

Preston Smith

adding that all progress made is in large part to the support received from partners in government and the health system.

"We are going to continue working with all of our partners and supporters to make sure the college will not only meet, but exceed, the ever-changing needs of Saskatchewan. In hand with this, is our goal of being one of the top medical schools in Canada, both in terms of undergraduate education and helping to advance the U of S research agenda." ■

# Mental Health Awareness Week

LESLEY PORTER

The first week of November marks Mental Health Awareness Week at the U of S, an initiative organized by the University of Saskatchewan Students' Union (USSU) along with many other units on campus.

"This week is not only about mental health awareness, but also mental wellness," said USSU President Jack Saddleback. "That embodies a number of things, including your physical health, your emotional health and your spiritual health."

A passionate mental health advocate who has been open about his own struggles, Saddleback made the issue a pillar of his presidential platform, promising to create a mental health strategy for campus. In 2014, he was named one of the five Faces of Mental Illness for the Canadian Alliance on Mental Illness and Mental Health's national anti-stigma campaign. He also previously served on the Mental Health Commission of Canada's youth council where he helped create a national policy on youth mental health.

While the USSU has always supported mental health initiatives on campus, Saddleback



Carver

said more can always be done. They did a large push last year with peer health mentors and student counselling and raising awareness, explained Saddleback. This year, working alongside campus units such as Human Resources (HR) and Student Enrollment and Services Division (SESD), as well as several student-run groups, the USSU's involvement is more hands-on, with events and awareness initiatives geared towards all members of the campus community.

"Our success as students is definitely dependent on the



Saddleback

success of staff and faculty," he said. "We want to see their success and we really like the opportunity to work with other organizations on campus."

Likewise, the university is starting to become more involved with mental health

and wellness initiatives aimed towards staff and faculty.

"We know it's a significant issue across campus," said Cheryl Carver, associate vice-president, human resources. "There's lots of relevance for HR to be involved and partner with student or other administrative organizations," noting the success of mental health training for managers and meditation activities.

Additionally, work is underway on a mental health strategy for the entire campus, which Carver plans to have in place by next spring. "It doesn't matter if you're living here, working here or visiting here," she said. "It's looking at the entire community and making sure we have the right resources in place."

Having a supportive,

respectful workplace is critical to further understanding and awareness of mental health issues, she explained, while encouraging those affected to seek the appropriate resources to deal with it.

"People don't necessarily talk about it openly or there's a fear of what to share or how they'll be perceived," she said of the stigma surrounding mental illness.

Saddleback agreed, adding that initiatives such as Bell's Let's Talk campaign have brought the issue to the forefront. "It's come a long way in five years. When we look at it here at the University of Saskatchewan, it's also coming along. I want students to know that they can come here and they can succeed, regardless of where they are in their own mental health." ■

**Mental Health Awareness Week at the U of S is November 2-6. Wellness Resources will be co-presenting a number of great events and workshops for faculty, staff and students.**

**Mental Health Training for Managers**

Tuesday, Nov. 3  
9 am-12 pm  
Admin C280

The Mental Health Training for Managers series continues, teaching about mental health issues in the workplace, and strategies and tactics to manage mental health issues and promote an inclusive environment. For more information, contact [wellnessresources@usask.ca](mailto:wellnessresources@usask.ca).

**Guest lecture: Mark Henick**

Thursday, Nov. 5  
6-8 pm  
Arts 241

Mental health advocate Mark Henick will present on his struggles with mental illness and his battle for recovery. Free and open to all faculty, staff and students.

**Panel: The Partnership Program**

Thursday, Nov. 5  
2:30-4 pm  
Arts 241

In this interactive panel, four speakers will present on recovery from schizophrenia and depression, as well as how mental illness affects family. Free and open to all faculty, staff and students.

**Workshop: Introduction to Mindfulness**

Friday, Nov. 6  
11:30 am-12:30 pm  
Education 1024

Registered psychologist Vicki Herman will speak about mindfulness meditation and its benefits. This free event is presented by Student Counselling Services and is open to all faculty, staff and students.



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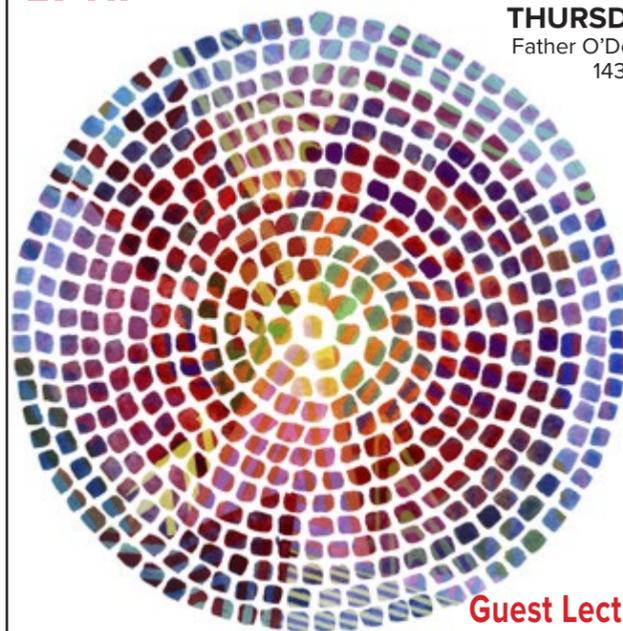
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## 27th Michael Keenan Memorial Lecture

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Father O'Donnell Auditorium, St. Thomas More College,  
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Free Admission, Reception to follow



### Reconsidering Reconciliation

**Guest Lecturer:** *Maria Campbell, OC*  
Officer of the Order of Canada recipient, Maria Campbell  
is a Métis author, playwright, broadcaster, filmmaker and Elder.



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# Aboriginal student enrolment up 5.5 per cent

MEGHAN SIRED

Official fall enrolment numbers gathered on October 8 show that 2,236 students at the University of Saskatchewan have self-declared as Aboriginal—the highest number yet. This total consists of students in graduate, non-degree, post graduate clinical and undergraduate programs.

According to Graeme Joseph, team leader of First Nations, Métis and Inuit student success, along with a growing Aboriginal population within the province, the 5.5 per cent increase from last year was achieved through strong academic programming, effective student services and a community of support.

“It’s fantastic to see that almost 11 per cent of our student population identifies as Aboriginal,” said Joseph. “The U of S is a national leader in Aboriginal

engagement and we are working hard to meet the increasing needs of a growing population.”

According to a new set of projections released by Statistics Canada in September, about one in five Saskatchewan residents will be an Aboriginal person by 2036.

This fall, there are self-declared Aboriginal students registered in all colleges and schools at the U of S. The three colleges with the largest Aboriginal student populations are the Colleges of Arts and Science (953), Education (614) and Nursing (175). There are 206 Aboriginal students enrolled in graduate programs, an increase of 6.2 per cent from last year.

“These statistics are inspiring as we work to ensure that Aboriginal students can readily see themselves in the

broad range of disciplinary areas that the U of S has to offer,” said Patti McDougall, vice-provost of teaching and learning. “I will be seeking to work alongside our direct entry colleges to see how we can build on some of their on-going efforts to attract Aboriginal students into diverse fields.”

While Joseph is pleased to see another increase in Aboriginal student enrolment, he stressed that the U of S still must ensure that these students are supported once they arrive on campus.

“I’m excited that more Aboriginal students are choosing the U of S as their place of study,” said Joseph. “We are committed not only to recruiting more Aboriginal students, but proactively supporting them throughout their studies to

graduation. This is ultimate goal for students, the university and the wider community—more Aboriginal people with university degrees.”

Joseph and McDougall both highlighted the importance of acknowledging the diversity of the university’s Aboriginal student population.

“It’s important that we remind ourselves that we don’t have one big group of Aboriginal students with the same ancestry and academic needs,” said McDougall. “We have Aboriginal students coming to the U of S from rural and remote communities as well as from urban settings. We have First Nations, Métis and Inuit students with diverse cultures and practises. It matters to us to understand that these students

are a varied group and that way of thinking makes the U of S an exceptional place for our students to learn.”

Among the 2,236 self-declared Aboriginal students, 56.4 per cent (1,262) declared as First Nations, 43 per cent (962) declared as Métis, and 0.5 per cent (12) declared as Inuit.

International students at the U of S also broke an enrolment record this fall—a total of 2,543 are attending classes this term, up 3.1 per cent from last year. In total, there are 21,001 graduate, non-degree, post-graduate clinical and undergraduate students registered at the university this fall—up 0.2 percent from last year. ■

Meghan Sired is a communications co-ordinator with Student and Enrolment Services Division.

## Health Sciences governance structure change

LESLEY PORTER

A change in the governance structure of the Council of Health Science Deans (CHSD), the collective grouping of the health science deans and executive directors at the U of S, will transform how those units work together to teach and do research.

Established in 2009, the CHSD was tasked with finding education and research synergies across the disciplines and creating a vision for the Health Sciences Building, in the infancy of its construction at the time. And while that council structure had good goals and intentions, putting the plan to action proved harder than anticipated, said Lois Berry, who was recently appointed as interim assistant vice-provost of health as part of the reorganization.

“We had an agenda in place, but it didn’t bring us to where we needed to be, just because the deans all have more than full-time jobs themselves,” she said.

A comprehensive report, carried out last spring by external consultant Ronald Bond, recommended a number of changes to the council’s structure, including the establishment of a chair with vice-provostial status. Earlier this year, Interim Provost Ernie Barber appointed Dr. Preston Smith, dean of the College of



Berry

Medicine, as the vice-provost of health. Soon after, Berry, former interim dean of the College of Nursing, was seconded to the portfolio as well. While Smith is responsible for fostering relationships with external partners (such as health regions and government), Berry will work with internal groups to promote the health sciences ethos.

This includes two major mandates, explained Berry. The first is to increase the amount of interdisciplinary health science research on campus and “bring together working teams to increase research outputs.” For this, the CHSD enlisted Lisa Kalynchuk, a neurology professor in the College of Medicine and mental health researcher. Kalynchuk, as lead of the neuroscience research cluster—a

group uniting faculty, post-docs and students from many colleges and units on campus to collaborate on research—is “well-placed to tackle this issue,” said Berry.

The second priority is to co-ordinate interprofessional education opportunities in the health sciences. Similarly, someone will be charged with leading this initiative. “They’ll work with deans and associate deans to develop a common curriculum for courses or seminars so we can bring our students together,” said Berry, whose secondment runs until August 2016.

Berry added that within both mandates is the overriding theme of Aboriginal health issues. “It’s important to have that conversation with the colleges about how we can best integrate Aboriginal health concepts in our curriculum,” she said. “There seem to be a lot of ongoing Aboriginal health initiatives without much cohesion or an underlying strategy.”

Additionally, she explained, working together will help highlight if there is a process or concept that works well for one college that can be applied in another college.

Going forward, Berry hopes to work with institutional planning to identify the key metrics that are signs of

success. Until then, she looks to the neuroscience and cancer research clusters, as well as One Health—integrating

human, animal and ecosystem health—as perfect examples of interdisciplinary research and education. ■

**Interdisciplinary research:** the Health Sciences Building accommodates several clusters of researchers and is designed to facilitate the interactions of these interdisciplinary research teams. The neuroscience team, for example, is comprised of researchers from the Colleges of Medicine, Pharmacy and Nutrition, and Arts and Science to study areas related to Alzheimer’s, Parkinson’s, depression, anxiety and other neurological conditions.

**Interprofessional education (IPE):** shared learning among students and professionals to gain the knowledge, skills and values required to work in a changing health landscape. A popular Health Sciences IPE initiative is Longitudinal Elderly Person Shadowing (LEPS), which pairs student groups with a senior resident at LutherCare Communities to familiarize students with the physical, social, emotional and spiritual aspects of aging.

#### Fast facts about the Health Sciences:

- Comprised of the Colleges of Dentistry, Kinesiology, Medicine (including the School of Physical Therapy), Nursing, Pharmacy and Nutrition, the Western College of Veterinary Medicine and the School of Public Health.
- D- and E-wing have achieved silver and gold Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification status, respectively, for their sustainable design features.
- The arched porch of the D-wing main entrance is clad with reclaimed field stone from the old hospital laundry building.
- E-wing connects to Royal University Hospital and wraps around the Dental Clinic building.
- A tunnel, underneath Campus Drive, will connect Health Sciences to the Gordon Oakes Redbear Centre once it opens.

## NEW TO US



Alyssa  
Hayes

Dr. Alyssa Hayes points out that universal health care, a point of pride for many Canadians, somehow does not extend to our teeth.

As an assistant professor in the College of Dentistry specializing in dental public health, Hayes is interested in the economic impacts of oral health care as well as access to care barriers, particularly in communities challenged by socioeconomic conditions or distance.

"Generally we know the burden of oral health in Canada is heavier among those who are considered vulnerable," she said.

A native of Burlington, Ontario, Hayes received her dentistry degree in 2006 at the University of Sydney in Australia. She practiced for three years in the twin city of Albury-Wodonga, a community she finds reminiscent of Saskatoon with its urban environment surrounded by vast farmland.

She returned to Canada to finish a master's degree at the University of Toronto, where she delved into the Canadian Health Measures Survey data to try estimate the cost of oral health care deficiencies in the country.

"It was quite expensive," she said. "We estimated at over a billion dollars annually in productivity losses."

Hayes, who joined the U of S in 2013, is collaborating with colleagues in the College of Nursing on their Caring for Kids Where They Live program in partnership with the Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools. The program trains nurses to care for children in the schools, and features telepresence tools to allow them to call in a "virtual consult" with specialists and educators.

"We have an intraoral camera available so I can actually see what the students are seeing," Hayes stated.

Hayes sees great potential for the program to enhance U of S students' education. This can be achieved through peer learning among nursing and dentistry students. The availability of nurses tends to be more widespread, with presence in communities that may not have resident dentists. Enhancing their training and backing them up with telepresence may allow for increased access to oral health professionals for those living in rural and remote communities.

"If a health provider wanted, we [oral health specialists] could come on via telepresence and offer an opinion or support as needed," she said. "That would be my vision: that through telepresence we could provide access to oral health professionals until definitive care could be provided."

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



*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.

Subscriptions are available for \$22 per year. Story and photo ideas are welcome. Advertising rates are available online or on request.

*On Campus News* aims to provide a forum for the sharing of timely news, information and opinions about events and issues of interest to the 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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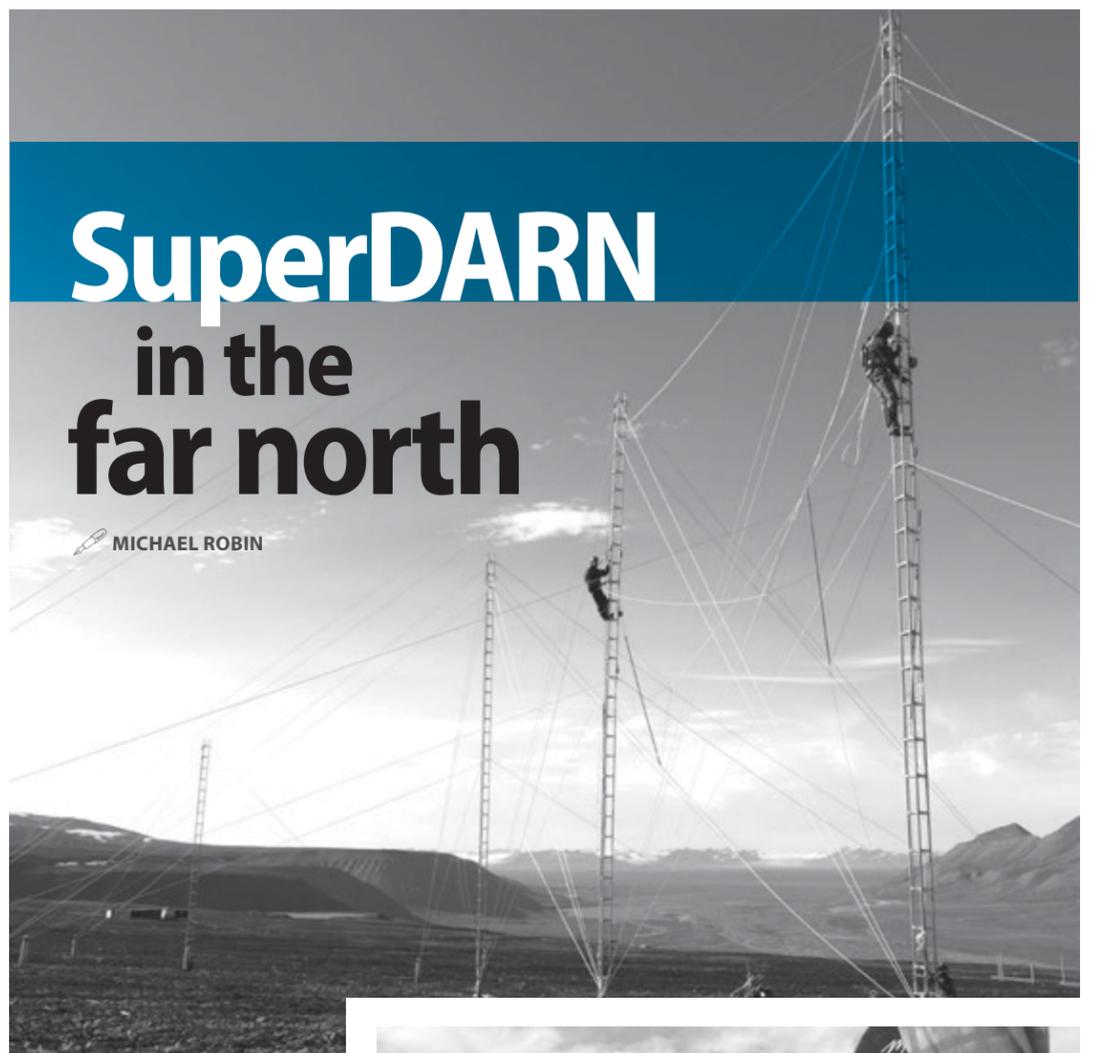
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ISSN: 1195-7654 PUBLICATIONS MAIL AGREEMENT NO. 40065156

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# SuperDARN in the far north

MICHAEL ROBIN

Rifle training was one of the first things U of S research engineers Kevin Krieger and Marci Detwiller needed to do when they arrived in Norway.

"At 30 metres, you have to hit a circle that's about the size of a polar bear's heart and lungs," said Krieger, indicating a circle about the size of a serving platter with his hands. The training also included how to tell if a bear is getting aggressive, curious or just passing through.

Fortunately, the training was never put into practice as Krieger, Detwiller and their team put together Norway's first SuperDARN radar installation, near the community of Longyearbyen in the Svalbard archipelago. At 78 degrees north latitude and nearly 1,300 kilometres from the Arctic Circle, it is the northernmost civilian community on Earth. Detwiller did put in a few shifts on foggy days, when visibility dictated that one of the team do guard duty, pacing back and forth with her rifle as the others worked.

SuperDARN, or Super Dual Auroral Radar Network, is an international effort to map and predict space weather—the storms of charged particles high above Earth where the solar wind crashes into Earth's magnetic field. These storms can affect aircraft navigation, communications satellites and electrical transmission grids on the ground.

SuperDARN installations are typically at high latitudes to better observe the auroral oval, that is, the aurora borealis or "northern lights" in the Northern Hemisphere and the aurora australis in the south. The Svalbard installation fills in a gap in the network's coverage.

"This is a higher latitude radar like our PolarDARN radars here, so it starts to fill that gap (in coverage) at really high latitudes," said Kathryn McWilliams, a lead



Lisa Baddeley from the University Centre in Svalbard (left) and U of S SuperDARN engineers Kevin Krieger and Marci Detwiller install and inspect the antenna components before raising a tower.

SuperDARN researcher in the Institute of Space and Atmospheric Studies (ISAS) in the U of S Department of Physics and Engineering Physics. "It basically points towards Canada."

Design and partial assembly of the 15-metre masts and cable systems that make up the radar antennae was done at the U of S, while a team at the University of Leicester in the U.K. was contracted to contribute the electronics.

Once the components were ready, they were shipped up to Svalbard in 2014 to await the arrival of the construction team in July and August of this year. For Krieger and Detwiller, both U of S alumni hired by ISAS as SuperDARN research engineers, it was a long haul.

"If you do it in one go, it took me 28 hours of continuous travel," Krieger said. "It was four flights."

Detwiller's return trip was even more of a marathon.

"On the way back, it was almost two full days," she said. "About 40 hours."

Krieger explained that SuperDARN sites are placed near communities, where there is a source of power, internet access for research data transmission,

and local people who can go out and take a look if something goes awry. Longyearbyen fits all these criteria and more, offering a modern airport with daily flights (the town's population of 2,000 swells to twice its size during tourist season), and even a local university dedicated to northern studies.

Site preparation by their Norwegian colleagues included drilling in wooden posts to hold the masts. No metal is allowed in the soil as it could corrode and contaminate the ecologically sensitive and protected area. The posts were installed while there was snow on the ground for the same reason: no vehicles are allowed on the ground in the summer.

"We ended up walking 400 metres with all the equipment, back and forth, so everybody got a good workout," Krieger said.

In the end, the construction went according to plan and on schedule, and SuperDARN will soon be strengthened by the Norwegian "eye on the sky."

"It's filling a gap in the European sector at very high latitudes," McWilliams said. "It's starting to fill in this complete pattern. There are some gaps but we're filling them in." ■

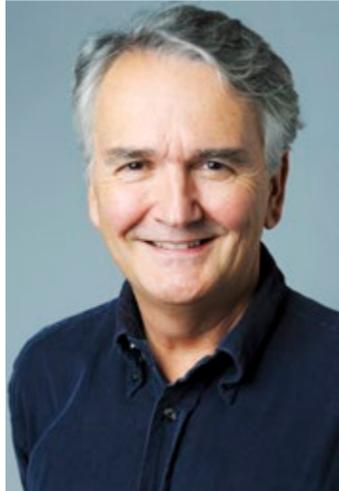
# Fall convocation 2015

The University of Saskatchewan's fall convocation ceremonies will take place on October 24 with ceremonies at 9 am and 2 pm. Approximately 1,000 degrees and certificates will be awarded as well as the following honorary degrees and awards:



**GERALD FINLEY**  
HONORARY DOCTOR OF LETTERS

Gerald Finley, Grammy award-winning bass-baritone, is a leading singer and dramatic interpreter of his generation, with acclaimed performances at the world's major opera and concert venues and award winning recordings on CD and DVD. His career is devoted to the wide range of classical vocal art, encompassing opera, choral, orchestral and song, collaborating with the greatest orchestras and conductors of our time. A fellow and visiting professor at the Royal College of Music, Finley gives master classes throughout the world, including the Juilliard School of Music and the Schulich School at McGill University. Finley was honoured by Opera Canada with a Ruby Award in 2012 and appointed an Officer of the Order of Canada in 2014.



**BRIAN GABLE**  
HONORARY DOCTOR OF LETTERS

Brian Gable, born in Saskatoon and a graduate of the U of S, moved to Toronto and enrolled in the College of Education at the U of T. While teaching in Brockville after graduating, Gable took up his cartoonist's pen and began freelancing editorial cartoons for the *Brockville Recorder and Times*. In 1987, after a seven-year stint with the *Regina Leader-Post*, he accepted a position as editorial cartoonist for *The Globe and Mail*, a position he still holds. His work has been published in *The New York Times*, *The International Herald Tribune*, *Time* magazine, *The Guardian*, *Prospect* magazine and numerous other publications. He has been nominated for a National Newspaper Award 15 times and has won the award six times.



**REGAN MANDRYK**  
NEW RESEARCHER AWARD

Regan Mandryk, associate professor in the Department of Computer Science, is a prolific researcher in human-computer interaction. She is recognized as an international leader in affective computing, an area of research that is concerned with sensing and modeling the affective and emotional state of the user and with making use of these models in the design of interactive systems. Mandryk has also made important contributions in several related areas, including computer game design for improved health, user performance modeling and interaction techniques for novel display technologies. She has published over 70 full papers since joining the U of S in 2007, and has received more than \$1.4 million of external funding for her research. In 2014, she was inducted into the Royal Society of Canada's inaugural College of New Scholars, Artists, and Scientists.



**ALEXANDRIA WILSON**  
AWARD FOR DISTINCTION IN OUTREACH AND PUBLIC SERVICE

Alexandria Wilson's teaching, research and outreach engages the public at multiple levels, encompassing and embracing diverse communities and peoples. Wilson, associate professor of educational foundations in the College of Education, undertakes research based in community, for community. Her focus is on improving the lives of Indigenous and marginalized peoples. Wilson is also a well-known activist for Indigenous rights as a founding and inspirational member of the grassroots Idle No More movement. Wilson's scholarship and activism has raised awareness and effected change for Indigenous and queer peoples, enhancing the university's reputation as an institution that can understand and serve marginalized people within the province and beyond.

The installation of Peter Stoicheff as the president and vice-chancellor of the U of S will take place during the morning ceremony. Stoicheff's first day in office will follow on Monday, October 26. See a profile of the new president on Page 6.

The installation and both ceremonies are available live online at [usask.ca](http://usask.ca).



**MARIE LOVROD**  
AWARD FOR DISTINCTION IN COMMUNITY-ENGAGED TEACHING AND SCHOLARSHIP

In undertaking her research on youth in care, and the gendered effects of economic policies and practices related to paid and unpaid labour, Marie Lovrod's primary objective is engaging relevant local, regional, national and international communities in all facets of her research, teaching and outreach efforts. As professor of women's and gender studies and English, Lovrod documents autobiographic accounts of traumatic experiences, expressed through writing and other creative forms of expression, in order to better understand childhood and youth trauma, and the effects of domestic and state violence. Her meaningful community-based scholarship contributes greatly to knowledge in women's and gender studies, provides enriching learning experiences, and enhances the university's reputation.



**KEITH WILLOUGHBY**  
MASTER TEACHER AWARD

Keith Willoughby, associate professor in the Department of Finance and Management Science, and associate dean at the Edwards School of Business, is recognized for his unwavering commitment to student learning and innovations in teaching. With his passion for teaching and a strategy that focuses on pedagogical innovation, connection to students and real-world applications, Willoughby has shown innovations in curriculum design and delivery that has positively impacted student learning and the reputation of the operations management at the U of S. Willoughby, masterful at connecting real-world events and experiences to learning in the classroom, remains continuously innovative, celebrates student success, cherishes student learning and aims at a long-lasting impact of his scholarship on students and the community.



**MAUREEN REED**  
DISTINGUISHED GRADUATE SUPERVISOR AWARD

Maureen Reed, professor and assistant director at the School of Environment and Sustainability, researches sustainability-in-action, in particular governance models that bring together local practitioners, private-sector and public-sector representatives to generate innovations for sustainable, equitable change. Reed is a dedicated mentor, sought after by students for advice and guidance. She has directly supervised 35 graduate students and has served on almost 80 graduate student committees. She is a passionate teacher and dedicates an enormous amount of time and effort to ensuring the success of her graduate students. Reed considers her students to be among her most valued colleagues—colleagues-in-training who have important contributions to make and expertise to offer. She treats them with the utmost respect and they flourish under her supervision.



**JEFFREY MCDONNELL**  
J.W. GEORGE IVANY AWARD FOR INTERNATIONALIZATION

Jeffrey McDonnell, associate director, Global Institute for Water Security and professor of hydrology, School of Environment and Sustainability, believes that internationalization of higher education embraces the mobility of faculty and students, educational aids, international co-operation and curriculum internationalization. McDonnell's philosophy is to give Canadian students international experience and to give international students Canadian experiences. His lab members represent ethnic and gender diversity, hailing from the UK, Germany, Malaysia, USA, Netherlands and China. McDonnell has logged more than 100,000 miles of travel per year since 2012 and encourages his graduate students and postdoctoral fellows to visit at least one of his international research sites to work with an international partner institute for three to six months.



**MARGARET BROWN**  
PRESIDENT'S SERVICE AWARD

Margaret Brown is known as "the administrative backbone" of the University of Saskatchewan's Native Law Centre; she has, after all, been with the organization since its beginnings in 1974. She is a consistently excellent administrative assistant who demonstrates efficiency, proficiency and initiative in her work, but it is her ability to build and maintain relationships that really stands out. Over her career, she has built extraordinary bonds with Aboriginal students in the College of Law and students enrolled in the Program of Legal Studies for Native People. Brown's relationships also include alumni, funding agencies, college and university personnel, government departments, Aboriginal leaders, organizations and other communities.

# A conversation with our new

On October 24th, when he is officially installed at fall convocation, Peter Stoicheff will take the helm as the 11th president and vice-chancellor of the University of Saskatchewan.

Since his announcement as president on July 9, Stoicheff has been getting ready to lead the U of S in its next phase. He has been working through a formal transition process that has involved provincial government officials, leaders of the business community, students, faculty, alumni and individual donors.

Stoicheff, former dean of the College of Arts and Science, has also spent a great deal of time touring parts of campus such as agriculture facilities, the Canadian Light Source and other research centres.

"I came away from those tours excited by the huge contributions the university has made over many decades in so many areas," he said.

"It is a university with a tradition of excellence in research, scholarly and artistic work, and I see my role as creating the conditions for us all to build on that excellence. I believe we have a faculty here who want to see us be extremely successful here and at national and international levels."

### The short view

Having the chance to see the institution in a big picture way brought into sharp focus many short- and long-term priorities for Stoicheff: the search for a provost; the Nov. 18-19 U of S-led national forum on university responses to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's calls to action; support for the College of Medicine to become research intensive; building a diversified financial model and revenue streams; finding the optimal

structure for Advancement and Community Engagement; and, in Stoicheff's words, ensuring the U of S continues to be "an agent of cultural change—a cultural institution where students, faculty and staff feel they can engage in informed debate around the issues of our time."

A relatively short-term project but with long-term implications is the development of a new U of S vision, mission and values document.

"For us to be able to move forward and meet the challenges that face us and be excellent, we need agreement on a new vision document. We have not really had an inspiring and clarifying one, every word of which we collectively agreed to, since about 2002," he explained, referencing former President Peter MacKinnon's *Renewing the Dream*.

Through broad consultation, Stoicheff hopes to build consensus on a draft document by late spring or early summer 2016.

"I hope to set a tone in the first six months through this important process that is genuinely consultative, that communicates clearly and unequivocally what the challenges are, and that genuinely involves everyone in being part of the solution in addressing those challenges," he said.

### The long view

Stoicheff is clear about his broad goals for the institution, which he outlined during his July introduction speech: to inquire, to inform, to innovate and to indigenize.

"I started asking myself, as I imagine a good would-be president should, what does a contemporary university do and how do you narrow that down to a handful of activities? If we

“ I grew up with that connection with the arts. My father was a painter and grew up connecting things; it has always been a part of who I am.”



# with president

inquire creatively, inform knowledgeably, and innovate, we are an inspiring place. All those things are connected," he said.

Inquiring and informing have to be at the heart of what our university does, he stressed.

"Students are here to inquire and inform themselves. Faculty are here to inquire and inform themselves, their disciplines and their students. Inquiry and the obverse of that, informing as a result of inquiry, are fundamental to what we do."

Linked to inquiring and informing is the drive to innovate and the ability to have solutions translated into contributions to society.

"Not all inquiries and not all solutions need to have that ultimate goal of utility," he said.

"At the same time, we have to be able to say it is valuable and worthwhile for the public to invest in us financially and with pride because we are a public institution that makes a difference in society. We should be

able to defend the value of all the inquiry we undertake. And part of that value is that a modern university can help the world adapt through innovation."

Indigenize, the "i" that completes the cluster, is very important to Stoicheff and his presidency.

"Indigenize means that we become the best place we can possibly be for Aboriginal students and their communities," he said. "It means that we have to rethink, and be open to rethinking, what we mean by inquiring, informing and innovating. It is bringing together Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal traditions of inquiring and informing for the benefit of everyone."

Creating that environment, with a larger percentage of Aboriginal faculty, staff and successful students, is going to take a great deal of time and effort, Stoicheff said, adding that there is a long list of challenges that need to be addressed.

"It has to do with funding and academic preparedness. It has to do with the number of mentors and elders, symbols and prominence of Aboriginal languages.

It has to do with non-Aboriginal people on campus understanding the unique socio-cultural position of Aboriginal people in Canada. I know we aren't going to change over night. It will be achieved through constant consultation with Aboriginal leaders, students and communities, and learning from them."

Stoicheff said he would not consider his first five years successful unless as an institution we are able to "improve in measureable ways in this area."

## View of success

Signs of a healthy and successful university include research funding and the ongoing ability to attract top faculty, staff and students, he said.

But to him, one of the most important signs is the value of a university degree to students: the level of student satisfaction in terms of instruction and faculty, research opportunities, and quality of life on campus.

"It is difficult to quantify value, but we all know the university has a responsibility to be the best it can possibly be for its students. So developing, continuing to develop, and refining the ways we measure what all of that means, and ensuring we always achieve it, are signs of success."

Another measure of success for Stoicheff is creating an environment of interdisciplinary connections.

"To me, one of the great accomplishments here will be that we understand how to create connections among the many parts of the university, and that we do so in a way that will allow the university to help address challenges the world faces—challenges that will only be solved in an interdisciplinary fashion, not through one discipline or another," said Stoicheff, adding that he valued such collaboration in the College of Arts and Science.

In a sector that receives limited increases in public funding, Stoicheff also sees financial responsibility as a key metric of the university's success. That involves more than watching expenses, it also means seeking out other revenue opportunities, he said.

"Over the next few years of inevitably tighter financial constraints, we need to strengthen our financial situation by diversifying our revenues. And we need

to capitalize on being a research-intensive, medical-doctoral institution in the U15 group of top research universities. For example, the more federal Tri-Agency funding we have, the more matching funding and other resource opportunities will come our way."

All of that, Stoicheff said, leads to another measure of success: university rankings.

"We're mature enough, we're experienced enough and we're good enough that rankings can start to matter to us. My presidency will not be about chasing rankings, but rankings can be an indication to us of how we're doing."

Stoicheff said he remembers a time, not that long ago, when the U of S was as high as seventh in the *Maclean's* rankings, instead of its 2015 placement at 14th. "I don't see why we can't climb to seventh again and even above that," he said.

"I always imagine a university where people from different parts of campus can come together and share the experience of the arts. We do that with sports in a wonderful way. That, to me, is what the Huskies are all about and we need to do this in the arts."

## In it together

Stoicheff said that in all of his previous leadership roles he brought a real desire to build consensus through consultation—and that will not change now that he is president and vice-chancellor.

"When I think about what I will bring as a president, it is consultation and working

together, gathering people from different areas to understand collectively what challenges are ahead. I can't work in isolation. You have to build a culture where everyone is contributing to solving the challenges we face. This extends from the strong team of vice-presidents and deans to the whole of the institution." ■

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# The silver tsunami is coming

## Aging population demands innovation in health-care system

MICHAEL ROBIN

Saskatchewan, like much of the industrialized world, is poised to get hit with a silver tsunami that threatens to engulf government health budgets, but also offers exciting opportunities, according to Dr. Jenny Basran.

“The baby boomers just started turning 65,” said Basran, Saskatchewan’s only geriatrician. “So everything we see in the hospitals, all the concerns in long-term care, all these home-care demands, are not the baby boomers. This is just the smaller group before.”

Basran explained that in addition to there being more older adults, people are living longer, which is already straining health systems to their limits. And the pressure is set to increase considerably.

“If we can’t handle it now, what will happen when the baby boomers start needing this level of care?” asked Basran, who was named 2015’s Physician of the Year by the Saskatchewan Medical Association.

What is needed is a new model, and here is where she sees opportunity.

Basran explained the current system is based on short-term, in-and-out care. Someone comes to the hospital with a problem, the problem is fixed and they are sent home. Until now, it’s been a tremendous success, bolstered by advanced technologies from electronics to medications and procedures.

“You look at mortality rates and they are coming down, which is a great success story of

medicine,” said Basran, originally from the small town of Cabri, Sask. near the Great Sand Hills.

The flip side is people are now living longer and many develop not only one, but many chronic conditions such as congestive heart failure, arthritis and dementia, and “our system is not built for that.”

Some of the consequences are not immediately obvious. For example, Basran and her colleagues took a look at long wait times in emergency rooms. It turned out the problem was far upstream: patients are occupying beds in emergency because there is no room in the acute care wards, because those beds are filled with people waiting for long-term care, subacute care or community services that may or may not exist.

“We’re looking at a new normal, and this new normal is we have people with multiple chronic diseases who need a continuum of care,” she explained. “It’s not episodic. It needs to be continuous as they move from the hospital to the community and vice-versa. We have to figure out a system that responds to that.”

Saskatchewan and the University of Saskatchewan are well positioned to design just such a system, Basran explained.



Dr. Jenny Basran

The province’s Health Quality Council has both the rich data sets and expertise to use them, while the Saskatoon Health Region has access to the university’s academic research community with expertise in a broad range of disciplines.

For example, Basran is collaborating with Nathaniel Osgood, an associate professor and public health informatics expert in the Department of Computer Science, and modeler Yuan Tian at the Health Quality Council.

“We built a hybrid dynamic model of the health-care system, starting with Saskatoon and Regina health regions,” Basran said. “It allows us to ask the ‘what if’ questions when making decisions about how to make changes to the system. We are really leading the way in this area and it has generated a lot of excitement.”

The computer model allows health researchers to take the

findings from the evidence and their pilot studies—of which there are many—and see how they would look if applied to the whole system.

“We can find out, ‘oh, that

**“We’re looking at a new normal, and this new normal is we have people with multiple chronic diseases who need a continuum of care.”**

Dr. Jenny Basran

would cause a backup over here,’ or ‘you would need this many teams,’ or ‘I would do it in this order versus that order,’ or conversely, ‘it doesn’t do anything for patient flow,’” she explained.

It is a development that is catching international attention.

“I was recently in New Zealand and met with the group that is developing their national

seniors’ strategy and they were just amazed at what we were able to do,” she said.

Both the technology and expertise are exportable and bound to be in high demand as other jurisdictions in Canada and around the world struggle with the health-care demands of their aging population, Basran continued.

She also sees potential to harness the creativity of researchers and students by connecting them directly with health-care professionals and the business community.

Small steps have been taken with events such as Hacking Health, which puts technology creators in the same room with health professionals over a weekend to identify problems and create solutions. Basran herself is an alumna of the first Hacking Health in Montreal, which produced iCaregiver, an app designed to help people manage and monitor their loved ones even when they are not able to be there in person.

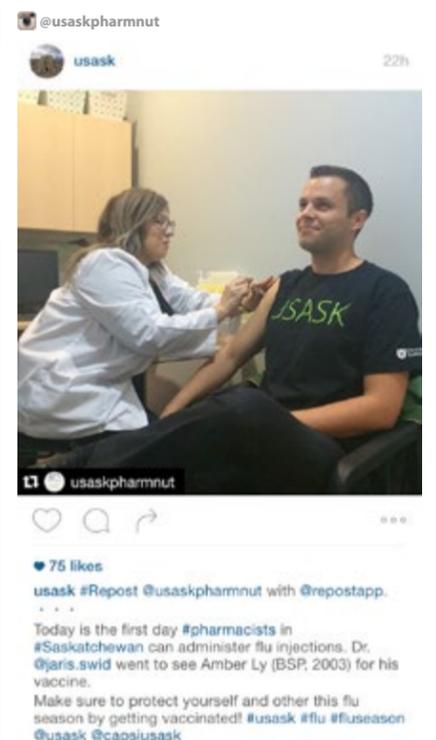
“It’s great, but it’s just a weekend,” she said. “Where to take it from there? I don’t know how to write a business case, don’t know how to further develop the app; I can’t leave my day job.”

Such short-term initiatives, as well as some research projects, can result in orphan technologies. For example, Basran was involved in a project aimed at creating a wearable device to

See *Creating*, Page 10

## GETTING SOCIAL WITH MEDIA

Some of the top tweets, posts and pics from the U of S



# Aboriginal design in engineering

LESLEY PORTER

When it comes to technology, engineering professor Sean Maw believes high tech is not always good tech.

Case in point: the travois, a triangular device made out of long sticks or branches and fitted onto an animal, was constructed by First Nations people on the Prairies to lug large loads over land. Think of it as a precursor to a sleigh. While fairly straightforward in design and purpose, it was an important tool that made life easier for those who used it—the underlying goal for any piece of technology.

Last year, the simple travois made its way into Maw's first-year course in engineering design concepts and techniques. "One of the things we do is analyze designs to see if they're good or effective," explained Maw, who is also the Jerry G. Huff Chair in Innovative Teaching in the College of Engineering. "Why are they good? How good are they? What's good about them? There's a lot of good there, and

it's not always acknowledged."

As technology evolves and get more complex, it seems impractical to analyze such an ancient artifact. But it can be quite involving, explained Maw, and asking questions about its purpose and practicality teaches students how to analyze anything from a modern standpoint.

"What happens if you spread the sticks further apart? Or if you use a taller animal? What if you move the load farther down?" All these situations, he said, can affect the intended usefulness of the device.

Additionally, while students take classes in statics and dynamics (objects at rest and in motion, respectively), they often have little opportunity to put that theoretical knowledge to use. "They do the coursework but don't ever use it again.



Maw

They're struggling to remember what they're supposed to do in a situation.

"So here's a thing you drag along—analyze that!" he said with a laugh.

The travois is a great example of design, and its integration into the course was seamless, said Maw.

Aboriginal watercrafts, a long-time interest of Maw's which he hopes to integrate into the course, is another good way to illustrate key design characteristics and learning concepts. The designs, he explained, were all good yet served different purposes based on their location. Moreover, Maw continued, the cultural significance was incorporated into the designs, much in the same way classes of automobiles are categorized now.

Canoes in Ontario and Quebec, for example, were well-constructed for heavy-duty use, "like a work truck." Similarly, Arctic kayaks "were an extension of the person" and played a significant role in hunting operations, said Maw. Watercrafts found on the west coast required more time and skill to create; these Cadillacs of boats "were the pride of the

community."

However, the boats used on the Prairies to cross rivers were flimsy and of a lower status. "They were very menial and not well-respected—basically disposable boats," he said. But they did not need to be better than that, because "the fact that you could make one in about 20 minutes was an asset. You build it, cross the river, then keep walking. You wouldn't take your Cadillac across the river and then just leave it."

Underlying the majority of First Nations artifacts is an implicit theme of sustainability—made of local materials, maintainable and recyclable. "They naturally had good designs in terms of what they were doing," said Maw. "I think it's worth pointing that out because we can learn from that." ■

UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES, INS-400 - HARESKIN INDIANS, NWT

# Safeguarding credit card transactions at the university

LAVONNE CLOKE

As data breaches—think Home Depot and Target—are increasingly landing millions of credit card records in the hands of criminals, Payment Card Industry Data Security Standard (PCI DSS) compliance is becoming a requirement for any business or institution that processes credit cards.

All of the data breaches in the last ten years, according to the 2015 Verizon Data Breach Investigations Report, have targeted organizations that were not PCI DSS compliant.

Credit card use at the U of S is on the rise, being used for everything from parking, food, and Huskie tickets to registering for professional development courses, said Trevor Batters, director of financial operations at the U of S.

With increased credit card use, Batters continued, it is important that all those

who are involved in payment card processing—whether it be storing, processing or transmitting information recorded on a credit card—are accountable for being PCI DSS compliant.

To that end, Information Communications Technology (ICT) and Financial Services are leading an effort to ensure that units accepting credit cards will be compliant with the most recent PCI DSS by February 2016, allowing the entire university to fulfill its compliance obligations by early April 2016.

"We will work with campus credit card processors to ensure the business and technology align for PCI compliance," said Batters.

Lawrence Dobranski, director of ICT security access and compliance said it is a necessary step in today's world.

"The world is changing



Dobranski and Batters

JERROD DIETRICH

and our environment is always connected," Dobranski explained. "The university is a steward of our community's financial, health and personal information and we have to ensure this information is appropriately safeguarded to reduce the risk of credit card fraud."

PCI DDS, now in version 3.1, is a comprehensive suite of

security standards that provides a baseline of technical and operational requirements designed to protect customer account data, and mitigate the risk of credit card data compromise, Dobranski explained.

"Being compliant with PCI DSS version 3.1 means that our systems are suitably secured to allow the university community and our customers to trust

us with sensitive payment card information," Dobranski continued. "This type of formal compliance will become the norm for every post-secondary institution that processes credit cards and the U of S is leading the pack." ■

Lavonne Cloke is a communications specialist with strategic services in Information and Communications Technology.

# Coming events

## Miscellany

### School of Public Health Poster Fair

Oct. 23, noon to 3:30 pm, Health Sciences D-wing Atrium, the School of Public Health will host its annual poster fair showcasing its thesis students' research and the MPH student practicum projects. Visitors are welcome.

### University Club

For more information about upcoming events, visit [usask.ca/uclub](http://usask.ca/uclub). To make a reservation call 306-966-7775

### Pre-Game Tailgate Parties

Join us for Huskie game nights Oct. 23 from 4:30 – 7:30 pm for fun tailgate food and drinks before the game.

### Annual General Meeting

Oct. 28, noon, Window Room, University Club.

### Linguistics movie night

Oct. 27, 7 pm – 9 pm, Neatby-Timlin Theatre Arts 241. Did you ever wonder what linguists do? Many linguists record and describe languages that have not been documented yet. Today, thousands of languages are in danger of disappearing and these linguists are racing against time to record them before they are gone. Come and see the dangerous and adventurous side of linguistics. For more information visit [thelinguists.com](http://thelinguists.com)

### Step Up and Stay Balanced

Nov. 22, 2 – 5 pm, R.J. Williams Building, 221 Cumberland Ave. N. Experience the science of bone health and injury prevention on campus; enjoy tours of research labs; top of the hour presentations on injury prevention and bone health by experts in the field; join in or watch exercises from "too fit to fracture" guidelines; cruise display booths and posters from community partners and researchers in falls and injury prevention. Free admission and open to the public.

### Spectrum 2016

Jan. 14 – Jan. 17, 2016, 9 am – 5 pm. Cameco Spectrum 2016 brings the marvels of engineering and science to Saskatoon and area. Known as "North America's largest student-run exhibition of science and technology," it is run by

engineering students who plan, organize and partake in the event. It typically features over 40 displays and welcomes over 9,000 participants. Started in 1930 as the "Engineering Show" it was renamed "Spectrum" in 1973 and takes place every three years. For more information visit [spectrum.usask.ca](http://spectrum.usask.ca) or email [emma.greendale@spectrum.usask.ca](mailto:emma.greendale@spectrum.usask.ca)

### Payroll deductions for Canada Savings Bonds

The U of S is offering payroll deduction for the Canada Savings Bonds/ Payroll Savings Program to monthly paid employees. The 2015-16 campaign is open until Nov. 1 (8 pm EST). You decide how much you would like to save from each pay cheque and that fixed contribution amount is deducted from each month-end pay cheque and accrues interest on a daily basis at the interest rate determined by the Minister of Finance for the series and period. More information can be found at [usask.ca/fsd](http://usask.ca/fsd)

## Conferences

### Law, Public Administration, and Challenge to Democracy: A Conference in Honour of Allan E. Blakeney

As a politician, public administrator, lawyer and professor, Allan E. Blakeney cared passionately about improving all aspects of Canadian democracy. As such, the overall theme of the conference is challenges facing democracy in Canada at the start of the 21st century. The conference is free of charge and will be held at Law 150 on Nov. 6, 1 – 5 pm, and Nov. 7, 8:30 am – 5 pm, with a reception hosted by the Broadbent Institute to follow. For more information or to register, email [Blakeneyconference@usask.ca](mailto:Blakeneyconference@usask.ca).

## Seminars/Lectures

### Breakthroughs in Water Security - Distinguished Lecture Series

Each Wednesday to Nov. 18, the Global Institute for Water Security will present weekly lecture series featuring water research experts from around the world. The series, taking place in the Neatby-Timlin Theatre from 3:30 – 4:30 pm, is

open to the public and topics are catered to a varied audience. Livestreams of each lecture are available. Please visit [usask.ca/water](http://usask.ca/water) for more information and for the speaker line-up. \*Note there is no lecture on November 11\*

### Integrated River Management System for Saskatoon: Challenges and Opportunities

Oct. 26, 10:30 – 11:30 am in Agriculture 2E17, Paul van Pul, a land surveyor and author of several publications in hydrology and in the history of hydraulic structures, will address the question whether and how to enhance the "river experience" in Saskatoon. Several proposals up until now have been stand-alone projects emanating from a particular group of stakeholders, yet Integrated River Management Approach has been lacking. Saskatoon as a prairie city ought to consider the South Saskatchewan River as an opportunity for its urban wellbeing.

### Public Engagement, Social Media and Health Policy: Exploring Opportunities and Challenges in the Stem Cell Sector

Oct. 27, 11 am – 12:30 pm in the Prairie Room, Diefenbaker Building, Amy Zarzeczny, assistant professor, Johnson-Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy, will present "Public Engagement, Social Media and Health Policy: Exploring Opportunities and Challenges in the Stem Cell Sector." This presentation will discuss on-going research funded by a Stem Cell Network Public Policy Impact Grant wherein we are exploring some of these questions in the context of stem cell research, with a particular focus on unproven stem cell-based interventions.

### 13th Annual Women of Influence Breakfast Presentation

Nov. 5, 7:30 – 9 am, Hall A, Prairieland Park, featuring: Kimberly Jonathan, Interim Chief Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations, Stefanie Lawton, Skip Saskatchewan Women's Curling Team and Daphne Taras, Dean Edwards School of Business, who will speak about their leadership roles and how they each achieved

success in their respective fields. Tickets \$52.50 each or \$315 corporate table of six (includes GST). Tickets can be purchased by calling 306-966-8686 or online <https://ccdeconference.usask.ca>. For additional email [execed@edwards.usask.ca](mailto:execed@edwards.usask.ca).

### First annual Keith Crocker Memorial Lecture

Nov. 13, 5 pm, Room 1130 Health Sciences Building (E-Wing), Dr. Medge Owen, Wake Forest University presents: "Kybele – Improving Childbirth Safety through Education, Partnership and Empowerment." To honor Dr. Keith Crocker, former professor of obstetrics and gynecology, Owen will present current information on maternal and newborn mortality in resource-poor countries. She will discuss outcomes in a regional hospital in Ghana to improve maternal and neonatal care.

### JSGS Public Lecture – Evidence-based Policy Development

Nov. 27, 12:30 – 2 pm, Prairie Room, Diefenbaker Building. There has been concern that public policy decisions are not based on evidence as much as one would like. This presentation will argue that there are many benefits of evidence-based policy development, supporting this hypothesis with an example. It will show that the use of evidence, in many cases, can avoid difficult tradeoffs. It will also offer a paradigm that focuses on two drivers of policy development: leadership and evidence, and uses this to provide a categorization of many Canadian policies into four groups. Lecture will take place in Regina and will be video-conferenced to Saskatoon. Visit [schoolofpublicpolicy.ca](http://schoolofpublicpolicy.ca) for more information.

### Literature Matters

Nov. 25, 7:30 – 9 pm, Social Hall, Grace-Westminster United Church, 505 10th Street E., Video Games 101: A Non-Gamer's Introduction to Narrative in Video Games by Elyn Achtymichuk. For information please contact the Department of English at 306-966-5486, email [english@usask.ca](mailto:english@usask.ca)

### School of Public Health – Vaccinology and Immunotherapeutics Seminar Series

- Nov. 12, 2015, 2:30 pm, VIDO Lecture Theatre, VP8, the major tegument protein of bovine herpesvirus-1, interacts with cellular STAT1 and inhibits interferon- $\beta$  signaling – Sharmin Afroz
- Nov. 26, 2015, 2:30 pm, VIDO Lecture Theatre, Implication of the Interaction between Influenza A Virus Polymerase and RIG-I in Host Interferon Response Modulation – GuanQun Liu
- Dec. 10, 2015, 2:30 pm, VIDO Lecture Theatre, The Phosphorylation of VP8, the Major Tegument Protein of Bovine Herpesvirus 1, Benefits Virus Replication – Kuan Zhang
- Dec. 17, 2015, 2:30 pm, VIDO Lecture Theatre, Novel in-vitro measurement of antimicrobial susceptibility against strains of Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) – Amal Alsaeed
- Jan. 7, 2016, 2:30 pm, VIDO Lecture Theatre, Targeted transduction of bovine dendritic cells by wild type and recombinant BAdV-3 – S. Khosa

### Veterinary Microbiology/Veterinary Pathology Seminar Series

- Oct. 28, 12:30 pm, room 2115 WCVM, Émilie Bouchard, Julie Wittrock and Rajnish Sharma, Department of Veterinary Microbiology, present: "The influences of climate change on health and disease in arctic wildlife"
- Nov. 4, 12:30 pm, room 2115 WCVM, Aline Costa de Freitas, Department of Veterinary Microbiology, presents: "Characterization of the human vaginal microbiome", and Roshan Priyantha, Department of Veterinary Microbiology, presents: "Human Staphylococcus pseudintermedius infections, a microbiological and clinical description of 27 cases in Calgary, Alberta."

## Courses/Workshops

### Edwards School of Business Executive Education

For information call 306-966-8686, email [execed@edwards.usask.ca](mailto:execed@edwards.usask.ca) or visit [edwards.usask.ca/execed](http://edwards.usask.ca/execed).

- Oct. 29 – 30, Building Teamwork Across Cultures, Diversities and Geographies Saskatoon
- Nov. 5, The 13th Annual Women of Influence Breakfast Presentation – Saskatoon
- Nov. 16, Managing Difficult Conversations – Saskatoon
- Nov. 23 – 25, Digital and Social Media Program: Communications and Advertising – Saskatoon
- Nov. 30, The Powerful Presenter in You – Saskatoon
- Dec. 3, Emotional Intelligence – Saskatoon
- Dec. 7 – 11, Certified Coaching Training – Saskatoon
- Dec. 9 – 10, Business Writing & Grammar Workout - Saskatoon

### Library Researcher Series

The Library Researcher Series provides workshops on interdisciplinary topics of relevance to the research of graduate students and faculty. All sessions are free and registration is not necessary. For more information visit [libguides.usask.ca/LibraryResearcherSeries](http://libguides.usask.ca/LibraryResearcherSeries)

- Oct. 28, 3:30 – 4:30 pm, Murray Library, room 102 Comprehensive Lit Review – Part A
- Nov. 3, noon – 1 pm, Murray Library, room 145, Zotero
- Nov. 4, 3:30 – 4:30 pm, Murray Library, room 161, Comprehensive Lit Review – Part B
- Nov. 17, noon – 1 pm, Murray Library, room 145, Mendeley
- Nov. 18, 11:30 am – 12:30 pm, Murray Library, room 145, Finding and Using Data
- Nov. 24, noon – 1 pm, Murray Library, room 145, EndNote Desktop
- Nov. 25, 11:30 am – 12:30 pm, Murray Library, room 145, RefWorks

### Community Arts

Explore your creativity and develop skills in drawing, painting, sculpture, photography, glass, jewelry making, fiber art, graphic design, art history and more. These courses help you gain confidence as you develop your portfolio. Classes are taught by professional artists. Take classes for general interest or work toward a certificate. For more information, visit [ccde.usask.ca/art](http://ccde.usask.ca/art). Register online or call 306-966-5539.

### Performance management sessions

If you manage staff at the U of S, you are invited to attend a free 90-minute performance management development session that will empower you to identify and confidently address performance issues in the workplace. There are four sessions being held in C210 Admin Building: Oct. 30 at 9:30 am, Oct. 30 at 2 pm, Nov. 2 at 9:30 am, and Nov. 6 at 2:30 pm. Space is limited so please register by emailing [katie.davies@usask.ca](mailto:katie.davies@usask.ca).

# Creating connections

From Page 8

address the problems of falls among seniors—events which often abruptly rob them of their ability to live independently. Armed with a \$500,000 grant from the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada, the team came up with an early prototype device.

"After three years the research funding ran out and we just had such difficulty knowing where to go next," she explained. "We hadn't quite got the prototype to work as the technology wasn't quite there yet and it just got shelved."

"This was almost 12 years ago, and I laugh because there was actually a wrist band. We wanted (seniors) wearing a bunch of sensors that had accelerome-

ters, gyroscopes, the whole thing. So, kind of like an early FitBit."

Basran envisions creating an environment of learning and innovation that combines the strengths of the research community, front-line health professionals and business to create real-world solutions. One example is the "capstone" project fourth-year engineering students must complete for their undergraduate studies.

"What if we said, this university is going to take a lead in this," she says. "We're going to bring in health science students, match them with fourth-year engineering students and computer science students. Then we bring in students from the Edwards School of Business, who work out, 'is there a business model for this?' 'what's the market?'—all the things you really need to

bring innovation to market."

From the clinician side, supervising doctors and other health professionals would help identify problems and recruit patients and families to test and refine the new ideas. Finally, the students would present their finished products and services to prospective business partners at an event for that purpose, such as the 2020 Health Visions Conference organized by the Saskatoon and District Chamber of Commerce that took place October 19 and 20.

"Maybe we need to figure out among all the deans a way to do that, partner with the (health) regions and Health Quality Council and come up with an ecosystem that can support, incubate and evaluate ideas and innovation in healthcare," Basran said. ■

➔ SUBMIT

Coming events

Next OCN: Friday, Nov. 6  
Deadline: Thursday, Nov. 29

Email [ocn@usask.ca](mailto:ocn@usask.ca)

# Changing curriculum in dentistry

✍ KRIS FOSTER

Revising curriculum has been nothing like pulling teeth for the College of Dentistry.

The changes have been broken into three parts, explained Dr. Gerry Uswak, dean of the college, with the first phase—establishing a more robust table clinic program focused on student research—already complete.

“About three years ago we decided to redo our curriculum,” explained Uswak. “We always had a table clinic course as part of the required curriculum, but it was only a year long. It’s hard to learn the basics of research and do significant research in that amount of time.”

So the table clinic program was extended to just over two years in length—starting in

term one of first year and ending in term one of third year—providing a larger window to do substantial, more meaningful research, explained Uswak.

The college also adapted some research modules used in the College of Medicine to create a more formal framework for students to learn about research methodology.

“We have a responsibility to create professionals and contribute to research at the university,” he said. “Through interprofessional, experiential learning, the table clinic does that.”

The results speak for themselves. Two years in a row now, U of S dental students have won top place at the national competition held by the Canadian Dental Association, beating out the best research projects from the nine other dental schools in Canada.

“This supports what we thought. If we enhanced the research methodology it would result in a better project, and if we increased the time the quality would go up. Now we have two national champions. Next we hope to find more funding for student research projects,” said Uswak, adding that the U of S table clinic program is already one of the strongest in Canada.



Uswak

The second phase of the revamped curriculum, perhaps the biggest of all of them, is moving from a four-year program to a three-plus-one program.

“This means compressing the traditional four-year dentistry program into three years,” Uswak said. “At the end of three years our students will then spend one more year in a community-based practicum, internship or apprenticeship.”

Uswak said that everyone in the college believes they can compress everything taught in the four years—didactic, preclinical and clinical—in three years, thereby allowing students

to gain an extra year of practice in clinical settings in the fourth and final year.

“Most of our graduates will end up in private practices, so this will further develop those clinical skills and how to run a clinic. They will have a year of that experience before graduating.”

The plus-one year, Uswak continued, will take place in communities throughout Saskatchewan, which may entice some graduates to stay in the province once they experience life in rural areas.

A change of this size, however, will require the college to move to a trimester system that will have students studying year round, a worthwhile tradeoff for Uswak. “In this curriculum, our students will have more clinical and practical experience with patients than any other program in North America.”

Uswak, who hopes to see the

new curriculum in place for the 2018-19 class, said the college is “taking a 10,000-ft. view right now, looking at timelines, approval processes and building new curriculum. When we are done, this could be a model for other dental schools.”

The final change to the college curriculum is the introduction of a graduate program in dental public health, which would be the first graduate offering from the college.

“We can move quickly on this initiative and hire up to four more faculty to create the core in this specialty,” explained Uswak, adding that this could be offered in about a year’s time.

All of these changes, he continued, are in line with the college’s goals. “We are creating well-rounded dental professionals who appreciate research, help patients and can be academics who become the next dental professors.” ■



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## Got your back

Evan Duncan knows when he is giving someone a good massage.

"I've had people fall asleep on the massage table or start snoring during a massage," said Duncan, a registered massage therapist (RMT) for Student Health Services, located on the fourth floor of Place Riel. "Sometimes people drool, too."

Aside from its obvious—and often immediate—relaxing effects, Duncan looks for results in ongoing patient therapy. "If there is something measurable that has changed for the better, that's what tells me I'm doing a good job."

On average, Duncan sees about four or five patients per day, the majority of which are students seeking solace and tranquility from heavy backpacks and hours spent sitting in a chair. However, he also sees staff and faculty, and hopes to see those numbers increase.

"Anyone can benefit from massage therapy," said Duncan, who is trained in the basics of anatomy, physiology, pathology and massage theory, and was required to complete 2,200 practice hours to obtain his RMT certification.

"What we do with our bodies, generally speaking, is not how our bodies were meant to be used. We're meant to be out running and jumping and using our bodies, not sitting for extended periods of time. There's a price to be paid for being in an office eight hours a day, and massage therapy is one aspect of addressing that."

