

A CREATIVE FELLOW
Susan Aglukark, Juno-winning musician and northern advocate, was recently named the Interdisciplinary Centre for Culture and Creativity's Aboriginal Fellow in Creativity, a role in which she will mentor students, deliver a Fine Arts Research Lecture Series in Music and conduct a class titled "In the Company of Music" from January to April 2016. Read the full story on Page 6.



DAVID STOBBE SUBMITTED

Closing the education gap

National forum brings together post-secondary and Aboriginal leaders

The presidents and executive heads of all 24 Saskatchewan post-secondary institutions have made a commitment to work together on closing the education gap for Aboriginal people—a gap due in large part to the residential school system and its intergenerational consequences.

The agreement was announced by University of Saskatchewan President Peter Stoicheff at the start of the national "Building Reconciliation" forum of university presidents and Aboriginal leaders that took place Nov. 18 and 19 on the U of S campus and at Wanuskewin Heritage Park.

The forum, the first-of-its-kind in Canada, examined how universities can respond to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (TRC) calls to action for post-secondary education.

"We, the presidents and



TRC chair Justice Murray Sinclair addresses national forum on U of S campus Nov. 18.

DAVID STOBBE

The U of S forum brought together **25 Aboriginal leaders** and **14 presidents** of post-secondary education institutions, as well as senior leaders from several more institutions, First Nations and Métis leaders, Aboriginal scholars and student leaders, and scholars dedicated to research that is meaningful to Aboriginal peoples. Opening speakers included **TRC chair Justice Murray Sinclair**, **Assembly of First Nations National Chief Perry Bellegarde**, and **Indigenous and Northern Affairs Minister Carolyn Bennett** (via video).

executive heads of all Saskatchewan post-secondary institutions, acknowledge the importance of building reconciliation," the agreement stated. "While honouring the unique missions and mandates of each of our

institutions, we will seek opportunities to collaborate, in consultation with Aboriginal communities, to close the education gap for Aboriginal people."

The accord, believed to be the first province-wide commit-

ment of its kind in Canada, was agreed to by the presidents of U of S, University of Regina, First Nations University of Canada, Saskatchewan Polytechnic, St. Thomas More College, Gabriel Dumont Institute, Luther

College, Campion College, the six colleges affiliated with the U of S, the eight regional colleges, NORTEP-NORPAC, and the Saskatchewan Indian Institute of

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INSIDE



SLEEP ZONE 3



DEALING WITH DEATH 7

From northern Saskatchewan to India

Community partners key to public health research

MICHAEL ROBIN

It was not a problem of awareness—the research team knew people were well aware smoking is bad for their health and simply telling them to stop does not work.

So they did not use that approach.

Instead, they started with community values: what are the things most important to the people? For the people of Sturgeon Lake First Nation northwest of Prince Albert, the answer was the health of their children and their elders.

“If I say to you, ‘stop smoking,’ what do you think you’re going to do with that?” asked Vivian Ramsden, an applied public health researcher in the College of Medicine.

“Well, you’ve told me a million times before and nothing’s happened. If I say, ‘can you step outside and smoke and protect the children and elders or older adults living in the home?’ That’s made a huge difference.”

This strategy is the core of the Green Light Program, developed with the community as active and even leading partners.

Ramsden explained that in 2008, the research team—composed of university and community partners—wanted to better understand the social determinants of public health within Sturgeon Lake First Nation. They worked together to design and implement a community-based survey that garnered a participation rate of 96 per cent.

The survey provided the foundational knowledge for a public health framework document called *Primary Health Care: Chronic Disease Prevention and Management Resulting in Pathways for Wellness*. It identified the most common risk factor for chronic disease was tobacco misuse, that is, non-traditional use of tobacco.

The Green Light Program



Vivian Ramsden (fourth from left) applies a participatory research approach that has proven its value in India and Saskatchewan First Nations communities.

message resonated with the community, with more than two thirds of households participating and proudly sharing this status with the community with green light bulbs by their doors supplied through the program. Ramsden credits the success to her community partners.

“It’s all about them. The methodology is about them; we are coming in to answer their questions in ways that are meaningful,” she said. “What’s important is the community. They own it.”

This success is exportable: Ramsden said there are now 106 communities involved with the Green Light Program, up from 14 communities when it started. This “participatory research” approach is now also being used to tackle issues such as chronic health conditions like diabetes and cardiovascular diseases as well as infectious diseases such as HIV and hepatitis C.

The participatory research approach has won Ramsden the trust of communities from India to northern Saskatchewan. Her efforts were recognized this year when the College of Family Physicians of Canada named her one of the Top 20 Pioneers in Family Medicine Research.

Ramsden’s broad geographic reach reflects her position as research director and professor

in the Department of Academic Family Medicine. From her office at the West Winds Primary Health Centre on Saskatoon’s west side, she teaches research to residents, graduate students and health-care professionals across the province. This includes a research methods survey course developed about eight years ago which has since become standard.

“There was no systematic approach to a research project but every resident in the Department of Academic Family Medicine has to systematically answer a question and present it at the Annual Resident Research Day,” she said. “So I started developing core modules and collaborated with other people for others.”

The course—which is updated every year—walks residents through the research process. It has evolved to reflect the Triple C Curriculum, the program that governs the training of family physicians in Canada administered by the College of Family Physicians of Canada as well as the newly updated CanMEDS, the program that governs specialist training for physicians administered through the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada.

“CanMEDS 2015 are more

competency-based, so the whole course has changed to be competency-based skills,” Ramsden said. What this means for the course is participants are taught how to identify a research question from clinical practice and reading the literature, learn the skills needed for peer reviewing quantitative and qualitative articles, and learn how to put together a research poster so that they are able share what they have learned with others.

A testament to the research methods course value is that faculty from other Canadian universities have taken it as part of their continuing professional development. Some elements of the course are also used with her partners in India.



Ramsden

“It’s considered a core course in the Health Sciences Program in the College of Medicine as well as a number of residency training programs,” Ramsden said.

Ramsden’s initial training was as a nurse and she still strongly identifies with the profession, keeping her RN designation current. Its hands-on nature colours her approach to research.

“I like being a health-care provider first. I’m not going there to change anything or do

anything; I’m there to actually help them to help themselves.”

The philosophy also applies to Ramsden’s work in India. Twenty years ago, she was invited to Omayal Achi College of Nursing to help set up an intensive care unit in a community hospital and teach cardiopulmonary resuscitation techniques to nursing students.

Over the years, this relationship has grown. When she first arrived, there was no graduate training for nurses; today, there are more than 250 masters-prepared and nearly 20 PhD-prepared students. Ramsden would like to see at least some of these students come to Saskatchewan.

“The best thing they can do is come and spend six weeks here learning their trade,” she said. “There are lots of things at Sturgeon Lake that we took to India, and lots of things from India that actually apply to Sturgeon Lake First Nation.”

For Ramsden, the bottom line for any health intervention is, “does it work?” Sometimes, this means broadening one’s perspective, something she said she learned in India where allopathic (i.e. Western medicine) and ayurvedic (i.e. “alternative” medicine) are used side by side.

Back in Canada, this means considering and including Aboriginal knowledge and practice.

“They have a healing process, a traditional medicine practice,” she said. “So maybe we need to be thinking about outcomes. If blood pressure readings are fine, then however they’re treating their blood pressure is working. If their A1Cs (a standard blood glucose test) are normal, however they’re treating diabetes is working. Maybe we need to think about asking questions or taking a history in a new way.” ■



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Pharmacy research looks at alternative treatment option for insomnia

LESLEY PORTER

Chances are you have had a restless night or two in your life when despite all the tossing, turning and sheep-counting, sleep just does not come easy. Chronic sleep disorders such as insomnia can wreak havoc on one's physical and mental health, leading many sufferers to take sleeping pills to help them get some shut eye.

The College of Pharmacy and Nutrition is piloting a new program that looks at non-medication therapy to help those suffering from insomnia who may or may not be taking drugs to assist with their sleep.

PharmaZzz is led by Fred Remillard and Karen Jensen. Remillard is a pharmacy professor and holds a clinical practice with the Saskatoon Health Region specializing in psychiatric and neurologic disorders. Jensen is a pharmacist and the manager of medSask, a public medication information service located within the college. She said that sleeplessness is an issue that comes up



PharmaZzz is led by Fred Remillard and Karen Jensen.

LESLEY PORTER

often with patients, especially those taking prescription sleep aides (such as hypnotics and sedatives).

"We get a lot of calls from people who have been on their sleeping pills for years and years, and they want to stop but they can't because there's no option," she said. "They really feel that if they stop on their own, they're not going to be able to sleep, or they've already tried it and it

hasn't worked for them."

Additionally, hypnotics are meant to be a temporary solution, said Remillard, and many people have trouble getting a restful night of sleep without them.

"The person becomes tolerant within a few months, and it affects your sleep patterns if you're on them for too long," he said.

PharmaZzz consists of six

cognitive behavioural therapy (CBT) sessions for insomnia administered by community pharmacists. Long used for mental health issues such as depression and bi-polar disorder, CBT is a type of therapy that assists in changing patients' way of thinking at the neural level. In this case, said Remillard, it is more focused at the elements of sleep disturbances.

He explained that many people distort or catastrophize their own thoughts if they have trouble falling asleep. Their minds typically wander from "I can't sleep" to "I'm going to lose my job if I don't fall asleep," a line of thinking that does not help the situation and only causes more anxiety and restlessness. CBT gets to the root of the sleep disturbances by changing the patient's thought pattern and behavior, albeit with some personal commitment.

"Any kind of CBT requires work from the patient themselves," said Remillard. "It's not just therapist-driven." He lists the program's sleep logs as an example.

"You have to figure out how long you were in bed, how long you slept, whether you woke up, how long did it take you to fall back asleep again without looking at a clock. So there's a fair amount of homework to collect the sleep logs on a daily basis."

Additionally, sleep is initially restricted for patients. Jensen said that while it sounds counterintuitive, it works to "limit the amount of time in bed that they actually sleep, and then gradually decreasing that so that when they're in bed, they're asleep."

Maintaining good sleep hygiene is also promoted, such as avoiding coffee in the afternoon or not having a television in the bedroom. While these are good strategies to follow, "it's not enough on its own," said Jensen. "You have to change those patterns and thoughts that have built up over the years."

So far, 16 Saskatchewan pharmacists have received training for PharmaZzz and

QUICK TIPS FOR GETTING A GOOD NIGHT'S SLEEP



Work on your sleep efficiency. "If you're in bed but can't fall asleep, get out of bed," said Remillard. "Don't force it, because you'll get frustrated, which is not conducive to falling asleep."



Give your technology some space. "The bed in your bedroom is meant to be strictly for sleep, not as a stimulus for watching television or playing on your phone," said Remillard.



Avoid stimulants such as nicotine and caffeine. Or, "if you have to use them, use them earlier in the day," said Jensen.



Steer clear from excessive amounts of alcohol. It may make you drowsy initially, but it decreases the quality of your sleep, explained Remillard. "You'll get broken sleep—your deep sleeps are not there, and you actually get quite a disruptive sleep and are more tired the next day."



It happens to everyone. "People shouldn't stress about an occasional night of bad sleep," said Jensen. "If they do find their insomnia is persisting, though, they should seek help."



Numbers are not everything. Not everyone needs the same amount of sleep every night, said Jensen. "Sometimes all it takes is assuring someone they don't need a full eight hours of sleep if you feel good the next day."

First Nations leaders tackle IT issues

JORDAN SHERBINO

Technology can help strengthen First Nations' communities across Saskatchewan. To that end, the University of Saskatchewan is hosting the third annual Saskatchewan First Nations Information and Communications Technology Conference.

"For Saskatchewan's First Nations, gaining technology competencies is about more than improving internet speeds and fixing email issues," said Candace Wasacase-Lafferty, director of Aboriginal initiatives. "It's about working together to ensure First Nations have access to the kinds of technology infrastructure to help build communities."

The conference—bringing together Saskatchewan's chiefs, band councillors and band administrators from November 23 to 25—is a collaboration among SaskTel, the Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies and the U of S. Although the university has funded the event in the past, this is the first year it has had an organizing role.

"We have such dedicated people on this campus with a wealth of information about technology," said Wasacase-Lafferty. "So making the conference a joint venture was a logical choice. We've brought

together the knowledge and commitment of my office and the Office of the Chief Information Officer to make this as meaningful and educational an experience as we can."

The conference will have keynote addresses, group presentations and small breakout discussions based on the themes of using technology to improve community health, enhance education, create employment opportunities and drive economic development in First Nations communities.

The presenters, leaders in the fields of technology infrastructure, First Nations governance, business innovation and health technology, include: Dr. Ivar Mendez, College of Medicine; Holly Graham, College of Nursing; and Lawrence Dobranski, director of ICT Security, Access and Compliance.

Wasacase-Lafferty said that past conferences provided an ideal forum for peer-to-peer learning and idea exchanges, relationship building and establishing connections, and learning from the successes and experiences of others. She is confident that this year's conference will build on that.

"Not only is this confer-

ence a tangible way for our university to engage with the First Nations of this province, but it is an important way to deliver non-traditional forms of continuing education to Aboriginal communities," she explained. "With technology infrastructure and expertise being so important, we are playing a small but meaningful role in the success of Saskatchewan's First Nations and are helping to provide a valuable forum for building relationships and inspiring life-long learning."

Wasacase-Lafferty said this conference is a great example of the commitment made by the university in the Third Integrated Plan to work between units and to co-operate with external bodies to be effective in Aboriginal engagement and education.

"We know that our goal of improving Aboriginal education is a moving target and that there is still much to be done to fulfill this commitment. However, this conference is a step in the right direction and it demonstrates a part of that commitment." ■

Jordan Sherbino is a special projects officer in the Office of Aboriginal Initiatives.

the feedback has been positive. Remillard would like to see it incorporated as a professional cognitive service, because sleep is "a universal interest." And as the list of health conditions linked to sleeplessness continues to grow, it is an option worth exploring.

"What's unique about CBT is that the emphasis is on changing the behaviour," said Jensen. "All of the literature ranks CBT right up there for treating insomnia. There's been quite a bit of work done on it and it works equally well as the sleeping tablets, and it's something that has long-term effects, which medication doesn't." ■

NEW TO US



Paul
Hughes

The opportunity to have an impact in an expanding industry drew mining design expert Paul Hughes to the College of Engineering at the University of Saskatchewan.

“Saskatchewan is strongly positioned to lead the Canadian mining industry,” he said.

Hughes joined the college in January 2015 as an assistant professor in the Department of Civil and Geological Engineering. He teaches the fourth-year undergraduate Underground Mine Design course, Introduction to Mining for third-year students, and is helping teach the fourth-year capstone design course for 2015-16.

“The students here are very engaged and practical,” he said.

Hughes earned his bachelor and master’s degrees in mining engineering at the University of British Columbia, emerging in 2005 to work in industry for several years before pursuing his PhD. His doctoral work, which he completed in 2014, focused on mine backfill in the weak rock mines of Nevada and Montana and the high-grade gold mines of Ontario and Indonesia. (Mine backfill is used to fill cavities created during mine excavation to make underground mines more stable.)

This August, Hughes joined fellow engineering professors Doug Milne, Christopher Hawkes and Grant Ferguson to teach the two-week Geological Field School, which takes third-year engineering students to Pincher Creek, Alta. and Revelstoke, B.C. to perform geological and geotechnical mapping exercises.

While his primary focus right now is on teaching and preparing his courses, Hughes has gotten two funding proposals out as well. One is for the potash industry as part of an initiative with the International Minerals Innovation Institute. The other involves geotechnical instrumentation, a process that relies on people with the right expertise effectively using various instruments during different stages of mining to measure the stress and strain profiles around an underground opening.

Graduate studies review complete

Report of recommendations received by University Council

After close to three years of campus-wide consultation, University Council has received a series of recommendations on the administration of graduate studies.

“I was tasked with answering two questions,” explained Adam Baxter-Jones, interim dean of the College of Graduate Studies and Research (CGSR). “Should graduate studies be central or decentralized, and if it’s central should it be a college or an office?”

After meeting with countless faculty, staff and, of course, graduate students, and doing an external scan of structures at comparator U15 institutions, Baxter-Jones began formulating recommendations on what structure would best suit graduate students at the U of S.

“After two years of consultation, listening to everyone, we found a majority view on what is best for grad studies,” explained Baxter-Jones, also a professor in the College of Kinesiology.

The feedback, Baxter-Jones said, resoundingly pointed to graduate student support and administration remaining in a centralized faculty, which is also the common structure found at U15 counterparts.

The consultation, he continued, also indicated that the “status quo is not acceptable. While we recognize that the current structure best suits the needs of our students, we also identified numerous procedures and processes that need to be improved.”

Along with the recommendations to remain both centralized and a college, came a suggested name change to the College of Graduate and Post-doctoral Studies, a change that will be put forward for University Council approval at a later time.

“This highlights the increase in the number of post-doctoral fellows within the institution and the need to have policies and procedures for them,” said Baxter-Jones, adding that while research is closely connected to graduate students, research intensity already falls within the mandate of the Office of the Vice-President Research.

Another recommendation relates to changing the title of the dean position to vice-provost graduate education and dean of the college in order to “reflect the fact that graduate student issues need to be discussed at the highest level to ensure grad students’ points of view are heard.”

Other recommendations listed in the report, Baxter-Jones explained, are “to improve effi-

ciencies. We need to make sure that we reduce the amount of time it takes from application to admission; we have to be quick with decisions. We also need to make sure the admission process is linked with the delivery of scholarships and awards.”

Baxter-Jones will now be working with the appropriate bodies to enact the recommendations and stressed that “this is not status quo and changes occurring are to improve efficiencies. At the end of the day the majority of the people consulted wanted a central college. There were some who wanted a decentralized model, but that was a minority.”

Another major task for the college is financial aid for graduate students, something that Baxter-Jones and Patti McDougall, vice-provost, teaching and learning, are looking at.

“We are working with PCIP



Baxter-Jones

(Provost’s Committee on Integrated Planning) to start a discussion about how to best distribute the institution’s financial commitment to grad students for scholarships and awards. We will use a consultative approach to make these decisions.” ■

Reconciliation key to stronger nation

From Page 1

Technologies.

“Across Canada, fewer than 10 per cent of Indigenous people have a university degree—about one-third the national rate of around 27 per cent,” Stoicheff explained. “In Saskatchewan, that disparity in higher education outcomes remains one of the province’s biggest challenges—and a major obstacle to long-term quality of life and prosperity for all.

“At the U of S, we are committed to strengthening our efforts across the institution to ensure the success of our Aboriginal faculty, students and staff, and to working together with other post-secondary partners provincially and nationally to rebuild some of the trust that has been lost in the educational system and advance reconciliation.”

He noted that early in 2016, the U of S plans to hold campus events in which faculty, staff and students can engage in planning how the university can move forward in building reconciliation and ensuring that the university is a place where Aboriginal students can feel welcome and can succeed and excel.

Stoicheff also told the national gathering of almost

200 forum participants that the university plans to partner with the National Centre on Truth and Reconciliation (NCTR) in Winnipeg. The centre, the permanent archive for all statements, documents, and other materials gathered by the TRC, provides opportunities for residential school survivors and their families, researchers, students, and the public to engage with the oral and documented history of residential schools.

“As part of our university’s plans to support Indigenous education and reconciliation, we are committed to partnering with this unique centre of national and international significance,” Stoicheff said.

Details of the U of S contribution to the NCTR partnership of universities, colleges and other organizations are being worked through, and the university anticipates signing a formal agreement with the centre in 2016.

“Reconciliation is imperative if we are to make Canada a better place for us living and working together,” said Stoicheff. “To its credit, the new federal government seems to see this clearly. And what better place to address this imperative than at the country’s leading cultural change institutions—the nation’s universities.” ■

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ON CAMPUS NEWS

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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.

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Life after grad studies

New certificate helps develop non-academic professional skills

✍️ KRIS FOSTER

More than ever, graduate students will not find themselves in faculty positions once done pursuing education and will need to develop certain professional skills required outside of academia.

“We started the Graduate Professional Skills certificate program as a way that could help develop non-academic skills for master- and PhD-level students,” said Trever Crowe, associate dean, College of Graduate Studies and Research (CGSR). “The certificate focuses on nine competencies, from communications and negotiation, to project management and human resources.”

The need for this type of training, Crowe explained, stems from a national stat that indicates that more than 80 per cent of PhD graduates in Canada will not get faculty appointments.

“They will need skills different than, and in addition to, their academic training,” he explained. “This is really intended

to make sure they are employable by industry or government. We are also trying to instill an entrepreneurial spirit so they could even start a business.”

Working with the Gwenna Moss Centre for Teaching Effectiveness, CGSR officially launched the free non-credit program open to all grad students at the U of S in 2014, Crowe explained. The curriculum is standard for the first and last courses—plus an ethics course that is required for all graduate studies—with the students selecting electives for the middle section.

“It is a bookend structure. The first course is on critical thinking and the last course is about reflecting on everything they learned in the program. The



The first graduating class of the Graduate Professional Skills certificate (left to right): Mohamed Rani Abdel Salam, Qin Xiang, Noura Sheikhalzoor and Ahmed Abdel Salam.

✉️ SUBMITTED

middle is 20 hours of electives the student chooses,” Crowe explained.

Choosing from topics in communications, teamwork, teaching, research, leadership and entrepreneurship leaves students with options that benefit both academic and career goals, said Noura Sheikhalzoor,

a Master of Science candidate in nutrition who completed the certificate program this past October.

“There are many professional areas in which the program has impacted me,” said Sheikhalzoor, adding that the program focuses on developing skills through strengths

as opposed to weaknesses. “I was able to identify my strengths, discuss them with my colleagues, and establish learning goals and a mission statement based on them.”

Sheikhalzoor explained that the program helped her with

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Wheeling and dealing

✍️ LESLEY PORTER

The university’s newest master teacher is a real Keith of all trades.

Reviewing Keith Willoughby’s CV, one cannot help but notice the variety in his research topics, ranging from sports and health care to public transit and game shows.

An associate professor in the Edwards School of Business, his work focuses on production, statistics and operations management, which is “the use of analytical procedures and quantitative methods to try to explore real business problems and find better solutions,” and can ultimately be applied to myriad number of scenarios and subjects.

Case in point: before returning to the U of S in 2005 (where he previously held a faculty role from 1997-99), he spent six years at Bucknell University in Pennsylvania, where he taught a course in computer simulation. While not the sexiest of topics, Willoughby found a way to engage his students in the subject matter with everyone’s favourite game show.

“We looked at computer simulation models for spinning the big wheel on *The Price is Right*,” he said. “In essence, if you are the first person spinning the wheel, when should you stop? If you get 50 cents, should you spin again? If you get 90 cents, should you stop? In other words, what’s



Keith Willoughby, master teacher

✉️ LESLEY PORTER

the stopping rule?”

Using a bit of math, the class developed a thorough spreadsheet simulation model that calculated the odds of hitting the jackpot during the Showcase Showdown segment. “They determined that if you’re the first person to spin, you should stop at 70 cents and above,” he said. “If you’re the second person, you should stop at 55 cents and above.”

While not the most traditional way of teaching numerical simulation, Willoughby noted that it is much more interesting for students. “If you do a computer model of producing widgets, nobody knows what a widget is. People are going to fall asleep,” he said.

Additionally, it gives students a real-world approach to operations and statistics. “At

the end of the day, it was tied to a problem that students could see because a lot of them had seen *The Price is Right*,” he said. “It allowed them to capture a problem and put it in a context they could understand.”

Willoughby used similar methods in past research within the health-care sector. He spent three years with the Health Quality Council, focusing on operational models to improve efficiencies such as emergency room wait times, treatment access and error reduction.

“I’m a real applied person,” he said. “I like looking at how I can apply these tools in real problems, especially ones that make sense to students. If you can give them a context in which these tools can be applied, they begin to see how to apply it in real life, and it makes sense.” ■









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Surviving the road

Aglukark's path leads her to the U of S as the Aboriginal Fellow in Creativity

DEE HOBSBAWN-SMITH

Juno-winning musician and northern advocate Susan Aglukark knows a thing or two about touring and the rigours of life on the road.

Recently named the Interdisciplinary Centre for Culture and Creativity's Aboriginal Fellow in Creativity, Aglukark has travelled a long way from her home town of Arviat, Nunavut, to the U of S campus. As the Aboriginal fellow, she will mentor students in the Aboriginal Student Achievement Program, deliver a Fine Arts Research Lecture Series in Music and conduct a class titled "In the Company of Music" between January and April 2016.

"I see the class as being about the journey of finding your creative self through music, learning how to use art as a tool to keep you focused on goals and dreams," Aglukark said during a recent phone conversation. "I hope the students learn that one-hit careers do not a wealthy person make."

In the first month of the course, the celebrated musician will discuss "how I found myself accidentally in a career, how quickly the choice became using art as a healing tool." The second month will address her views on how the artist must become a business partner.

"Especially as a solo artist," she said, "the band and crew, manager and agent, everyone gets



Susan Aglukark, Juno-winning musician and northern advocate.

“The point is to make art: to paint, sew, bead—anything to make art to feed the soul.”

Susan Aglukark

PHOTO SUBMITTED

paid; it becomes a necessary part of the equation."

Part three will examine technology that has changed the music industry and how to integrate it into a career.

Aglukark has first-hand experience of the music industry's downsides. "Burnout," she said bluntly. "We forget to take care of ourselves as artists. Often we give up the art to take care of a paying gig. Then we wonder, where did the time for myself go?" The other

culprit is music's business side. "I would say 60 to 70 per cent of musicians are bad at business. We find people who will take care of it for us and are loyal. I had to do it for a time, but that energy has to come from somewhere."

Arviat is located on the north-western shores of Hudson Bay in Nunavut. Aglukark got her start singing in the choir of her Inuit preacher father's Pentecostal church congregation, and sang along at home with country,

gospel, bluegrass and Christian music. After high school, Aglukark travelled south to Ottawa and took a job as a translator with the former Department of Indian and Northern Affairs.

Her music career's beginnings were "very fast and sudden," she said, springboarding from two independent CDs to a music video which became a MuchMusic hit; she subsequently signed with a major label.

In the ensuing years, collaborations and acclaim, including two Junos, established Aglukark as a major Canadian music star.

But music has not defined Aglukark's life. She has exercised her social conscience in many ways, most of which are addressed at improving northern life, and

was made an officer of the Order of Canada in 2004. Seven CDs, thousands of miles, countless performances and 25 years later, Aglukark is as much honoured as a speaker and advocate for the people of Northern Canada as for her music. She is also once again an independent artist, looking for ways to raise money to get into the studio to record her next album.

"The point is to make art: to paint, sew, bead—anything to make art to feed the soul," she said. "Even on the road, I squeeze in time to be creative." Ultimately, she added, "we hit a crossroads. Is it art or is it paying the bills? We forget very easily." ■

dee Hobsbawn-Smith is a poet, essayist and fiction writer.

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Legal ease

CLASSIC aims for easy legal access

✍️ MICHAEL ROBIN

It is a basic tenet of Canadian society that all citizens are equal before the law, but this view may be a bit naïve, explained Sarah Buhler, an assistant professor in the College of Law.

“First of all, accessing a lawyer is actually quite a barrier for a lot of people, including middle-class people,” Buhler explained.

A familiar hurdle is money. According to a survey by *Canadian Lawyer* magazine, professional legal fees range from \$230 to more than \$400 per hour, depending on the experience of the lawyer involved. While this may be comparable to fees in other professions, it poses a problem, Buhler explained, particularly to those most

marginalized in society.

“Many, many people cannot afford lawyers,” she said, a situation made worse by an individual’s circumstances. This includes discrimination by race or disability, low income, or cultural factors such as the legacy of colonialism and residential schools among Indigenous people.

“We find that in fact, law operates differently on people who are more marginalized,” Buhler said. “So they’re more subject to legal regulation, policing, criminalization and interactions with the state.”

Buhler’s interest in social justice led her to become involved in CLASSIC—Community Legal Assistance Services for



Sarah Buhler, an assistant professor in the College of Law.

✍️ MICHAEL ROBIN

Saskatoon Inner City. Launched by U of S law students in 2007, CLASSIC specializes in areas collectively known as poverty law or social justice law. Although she has been involved since the

beginning, including acting as the clinic’s first executive director and supervising lawyer, Buhler emphasized her role is now more modest.

“I’m one small piece of it

and my part is to support the academic component,” Buhler said, while acknowledging she still spends a significant part of her time there working with students and on her own research.

Located on 20th Street in Saskatoon, CLASSIC is an independent not-for-profit entity with an executive director, three full-time lawyers, students and support staff. While it has close links with the College of Law, none of its staff are paid by the university. Its services are reserved for people with low income, and there is a particular emphasis on the needs of Indigenous clients.

See *Connecting*, Page 9

A gateway to mystery

✍️ LESLEY PORTER

Despite its universal inevitability, death is a touchy topic for many. It is a subject Meera Kachroo, sessional lecturer with the Department of Religion and Culture in the College of Arts and Science, hopes to bring out into the open, albeit in an abstract way.

“Death is a fascinating topic,” said Kachroo, “and it’s a really important part of people’s religious lives—all of the rituals around death and thinking about end-times is a huge preoccupation. It’s a part of life and is another aspect of how we move through the universe.”

Starting in January, Kachroo, who is completing her PhD in religious philosophies from McGill University, will be teaching a course at the U of S that profiles how various world religions, particularly those in eastern and southern Asia, understand and process the concept of death.

“We live kind of removed from it, so it’s harder to talk about personal things that affect us really deeply,” said Kachroo, adding that social structures such as hospitals and hospices further protect North Americans from looking at death objectively. “It’s taboo here. A lot of us don’t have practice and it’s an exercise in vulnerability.”

Comparatively, the philosophies and traditions of Asian

religions see death as less finite and more cyclical. “You don’t just close the door and that’s a vacuum,” she said. Rather, “it’s not a vacuum, it’s not a non-place. There are always different realms and there’s always this idea that they continue; there’s this continuance of the spirit or the soul where it can emerge back into our lives—a circularity or neighbourliness with death.”

Born and raised in

“Death is a fascinating topic, and it’s a really important part of people’s religious lives—all of the rituals around death and thinking about end-times is a huge preoccupation.”

Meera Kachroo

Saskatoon, Kachroo grew up attending a Hindu temple and reads Sanskrit, where the take on death is much different—at a personal level, she considers it “a gateway to mystery.” She recalled reading ancient Hindu texts that contain interesting perspectives about death and the after-life. One of those texts,



Kachroo

the *Katha Upanishad*, is a foundational document of Hinduism and is considered one of the oldest philosophical texts in the world.

“A boy has a conversation with death and death reveals to him all the secrets about his soul, about the nature of the universe, about his responsibilities in the world, and it really teaches him how to live,” she said. “Death comes back again and again as a teacher.”

Her goal with the class, she explained, is to use other mediums, such as art, poetry and philosophical ideas, to explore the depictions of and attitudes towards death in other religions. There will also be appearances from guest lecturers—such as funeral home workers and grief counselors—to share what it is like to have some aspect of death in their lives every day. “It’s easy to think about death in such a



The Kinkara Father-Mother are a dancing skeleton couple who are protective guardians of the charnel grounds in Tibetan tradition. Though fleshless, they are dressed in flowing costumes and animated in a coordinated dance, showing their intrinsic energy to protect the Buddha’s teachings. (*Worlds of Transformation*, Robert Thurman, ed. Tibet House, New York, Pub. (1999))

simplistic way if you don’t think about it too much,” she said. “But that’s kind of the point of the class: let’s think about it in a more nuanced, healing and helpful way.”

And while she encourages her students to be open and

frank in their discussions, she is careful to frame the class academically due to its subject matter. “It’s very personal for everybody,” she said. “That’s something I’m going to pay attention to and I’ll be sensitive to that.” ■



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Water quality of Lake Diefenbaker may go with the flow

MEAGAN HINTHER

A team of U of S researchers studying the health of Lake Diefenbaker over the last few years has found that water flowing in from the South Saskatchewan River may be the principal factor affecting the lake's water quality.

The researchers—from the Global Institute for Water Security (GIWS), the Toxicology Centre, the College of Arts and Science, and the School of Environment and Sustainability—contributed to a special issue of the *Journal of Great Lakes Research* that showed what happens upstream has the most impact on the reservoir's water quality. Of the 15 articles in the special issue, the U of S contributed 13 papers studying the physical, chemical and biological properties of Lake Diefenbaker and assessing the reservoir's susceptibility to increasing stress.

"It appears that the flow into the reservoir has the greatest impact on water quality," said Rebecca North, GIWS research associate and lead guest editor of the journal. "This could be a concern with increasing temperatures and lower water flows due to climate change."

More than half of the papers in the special issue identified changes in hydrology as a principle factor affecting water quality. While there has been public concern about the potential for declining Lake Diefenbaker water quality,

especially related to surface algal blooms, the researchers found little evidence that supported this perception.

"Algal blooms do occur in a portion of the reservoir—the Qu'Appelle arm—but in the rest of the lake, blooms are generally infrequent and even less frequent than other lakes with similar nutrient concentrations," said North.

North explained that the low frequency of algal blooms may be attributed to the mixing effect of windy lake conditions and a combination of high water flows for the study period, low light penetration due to murky water and low phosphorus in the upper water column of the reservoir.

"We are predicting that the risk of algal blooms may be more prevalent during years of lower water flow, which we will continue studying in order to fully understand the factors affecting the water quality of Lake Diefenbaker."

North added that for Lake Diefenbaker, it is the upstream activities and precipitation patterns in the Saskatchewan River basin that primarily dictate what happens to the flow levels and the potential for algal blooms.

"Based on the data we have

to date, it is not the individual activities in the lake, such as the presence of the fish farming facility, the discharge of treated wastewater or cattle along the shorelines, that pose a significant risk to water quality, it's the activities and weather patterns upstream," said North. "Phosphorus input is of particular concern because under the right environmental conditions, fertilization due to phosphorus can create large-scale algal blooms."

The findings suggest that land-management practices and efforts to reduce nutrient input should be focused at sites

upstream to Lake Diefenbaker.

"Of all the factors influencing the lake, the water coming from the South Saskatchewan is the most important. The less nutrients in that water, the

better," said North. ■

Meagan Hinthier is a communications specialist with the Global Institute for Water Security and the School of Environment and Sustainability



Rebecca North measures winter oxygen levels and water temperature at Lake Diefenbaker.

SUBMITTED

Connecting justice and community

From Page 7

Today, Buhler explained, CLASSIC is a fixture in the community as well as a valuable training ground for students from the College of Law. The law clinic offers help in a wide range of legal areas including housing, human rights, immigration and refugee issues, and even criminal and prison law. Buhler leads the Intensive Clinical Program, which places students full-time at CLASSIC for a semester for a full-term credit.

"Law students are actually doing most of the front line client service and legal work at CLASSIC," she said.

Buhler's interest in social justice has deep roots. She grew up in Thailand, where her parents worked in the area of international development. She moved back to Canada to pursue her post-secondary education and law career. She joined the College of Law faculty in 2010.

"There's significant dialogue

among lawyers and government on the issues of access to justice and the role of lawyers in creating a more accessible and responsive legal system," she said, explaining that she strives to design her research to create knowledge to advance this cause.

For example, one project involves a series of interviews with clients of CLASSIC and people from other community organizations. Participants were asked about their experiences with the justice system, and what they saw as deficiencies.

"In particular, we're asking their priorities for law schools, law students and lawyers," Buhler said. "What skills do they need to have to work effectively with marginalized communities?"

Research partnerships with groups such as STR8-UP, the Elizabeth Fry Society and others are also actively sought out. These partnerships offer advantages for both sides. The

academics benefit from being able to engage in research that is meaningful to communities—for example, visitation and phone calls for inmates in prisons—while the community groups gain knowledge to support their advocacy work.

"Community organizations, they're so busy just surviving and just doing their amazing work that sometimes an extra piece, like adding research in, is a challenge," Buhler said. "That's somewhere where academics, researchers and scholars can contribute."

Connecting directly with these communities creates a richer experience for students as well, and makes them more aware of the bad experiences with and associated mistrust of the legal system by marginalized groups, particularly Indigenous people.

"We're looking in particular how lawyers can be better educated and connected to those communities," she said. ■

Skills important in job market

From Page 5

reflective thinking and reflective writing—something that has helped her connect what she learned in the program with her goals and objectives, and her academic and career experiences.

"The skills that the certificate focuses on are hot requirements in the job market," she said. "Through the certificate, I improved my leadership, teaching, creative and critical thinking, and communication skills. Being aware, reflective and able to connect my previous and current experiences with the future made me feel prepared for my career."

Crowe said the only issue he sees right now is about capacity. "With more than 3,000 graduate students, and expectations to increase that number, we may not



Crowe

have the capacity or resources to accommodate all students who wish to complete the certificate."

Right now, Crowe said, the program's capacity is about 30 students per term. "We have a good program that is full because students are interested. That's a good problem to have." ■

In Memoriam

Floyd W. Bigsby, Agriculture Engineering, October 20

Fredrick G. Reinbolt, Dept of Anatomy, October 1

Orbin D. Edighoffer, FMD, October 12

Elaine A. Dermott, WCVM & ENG, October 11

Jim D. Ulsifer, FMD, October 23

Coming events

■ Courses/Workshops

Edwards School of Business Executive Education

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

- Nov. 23–25, Digital & Social Media Program: Communications & 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

- Nov. 24, noon–1 pm, Murray Library, Room 145, EndNote Desktop
- Nov. 25, 11:30–12:30 pm, Murray Library, Room 145, RefWorks

Mental Health Training for Managers

Nov. 25, 1–5 pm, Admin C280. If you manage U of S faculty and staff, this three-hour Mental Health Training for Managers will empower you to break down stigma and create a mentally healthy workplace. Wellness Resources, a division of Human Resources, has partnered with Sun Life Financial and powered by Solareh to provide this free training for managers of U of S employees. You will learn: mental health issues in the workplace; strategies to prevent and manage mental health issues; tactics to create an inclusive work environment; real-world situations within the workplace; confidence in addressing potential issues in your unit...all from a manager's perspective. Please register

online at <http://safetyresources.usask.ca/services/training/>

Winter 2015 Fall Fortnight: Teaching and Learning Recharge

Dec. 7–13, the Fortnight series is planned by the Gwenna Moss Centre for Teaching Effectiveness, in partnership with faculty members from across campus. The event is comprised of two weeks of workshops, talks and discussions all centered on enhancing teaching practice. The theme of the Winter Fortnight is "Teaching and Learning Recharge" as December is the time for you to reflect on your past practice, brainstorm improvements and renew it for the coming term! For more information or to register, visit usask.ca/gmcte/winter-fortnight.

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. Register online or call 306-966-5539

■ Seminars/Lectures

JSGS Public Lectures

- Nov. 24, 10:30 am–noon, Prairie Room, Diefenbaker Building. Small Modular Reactors: Energy Opportunities and Regulatory Views. Small modular reactors (SMRs) are part of a new generation of nuclear power plant designs whose benefits include less on-site construction, increased containment efficiency and the ability to have greater quality controls. Saskatchewan, with its comparatively small population base, is not ideal for a conventional reactor that can produce upwards of 1000 megawatts of power. However, an SMR that produces anywhere from 10 to 300 megawatts could be a good fit for Saskatchewan's

energy needs. What is the future outlook for SMRs in Saskatchewan, what are the potential regulatory challenges and how is Canada's nuclear regulator, the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission, going to address them?

- Nov. 27, 12:30–2 pm, Prairie Room, Diefenbaker Building. Evidence-based Policy Development, Presented by Munir Sheikh, Executive Fellow, School of Public Policy, University of Calgary. 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. Visit schoolofpublicpolicy.ca for more information.

International Trade and International Relations

Nov. 25, 4 pm, Room 271 Thorvaldson Building. His Excellency Nicolás Lloreda-Ricourt, Ambassador of Colombia to Canada, will give a talk on International Trade and International Relations in the International Studies 110 class. Lloreda was appointed Ambassador of Colombia to Canada in February 2013. Previously he served as the deputy chief of mission of the Embassy of Colombia in Washington, D.C. Lloreda has also served as director general of the Andean Community and spent four years with the Colombian Government Trade Bureau, where he served as director of the Trade Bureau of the Colombian Embassy.

Literature Matters

Nov. 25, 7:30–9 pm, Social Hall, Grace-Westminster United Church, 505 10th Street E. Elyn Achtymichuk presents: Video Games 101: A Non-Gamer's Introduction to Narrative in Video Games. This talk is particularly addressed to an audience of skeptics and will offer some justification for video games to a non-gamer audience. It will offer an introductory discussion of the narrative potential of video games, and why they

might deserve some credit for their storytelling capabilities. For information please contact the Department of English at 306-966-5486 or english@usask.ca.

School of Public Health – Vaccinology and Immunotherapeutics Seminar Series

- Nov. 26, 12:30 pm, VIDO Lecture Theatre, GuanQun Liu presents: Implication of the Interaction between Influenza A Virus Polymerase and RIG-I in Host Interferon Response Modulation.
- Dec. 10, 12:30 pm, VIDO Lecture Theatre, Amal Alsaeed presents: Novel in-vitro measurement of antimicrobial susceptibility against strains of Methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA).
- Dec. 17, 12:30 pm, VIDO Lecture Theatre, Kuan Zhang presents: The Phosphorylation of VP8, the Major Tegument Protein of Bovine Herpesvirus 1, Benefits Virus Replication.
- Jan. 7, 2016, 12:30 pm, VIDO Lecture Theatre, S. Khosa presents: Targeted transduction of bovine dendritic cells by wild type and recombinant BAdV-3.

Veterinary Microbiology / Veterinary Pathology Seminar Series

Nov. 25, 12:30 pm, Room 2302 WCV. Matheus Costa, Lisa Johnson and Jason Perez, Department of Veterinary Microbiology, present: Emerging diseases in Swine: The *Brachyspira* case. For more information, please contact Lisa Nemeth at 306-966-7210.

Small Places of Large Importance: Hunter-Gatherer Mortuary Sites in Ancient Siberia

Nov. 27, 7 pm, Archaeology Building, Room 132. Angela Lieverse and Laura Shuttleworth, Department of Archaeology and Anthropology, University of Saskatchewan present this talk focusing on new and ongoing bioarchaeological research in the Cis-Baikal region of Siberia (Russian Federation). The first part will present key findings from almost 20 years of work in the area, specifically with regards to the lifeways of two distinct populations separated by an almost millennium-long 'hiatus' during the middle Neolithic period (~7000–6000 years ago). The second part of the talk will focus on Shuttleworth's ongoing MA research, which synthesizes biological data from human remains and mortuary archaeological data in order to better understand the complex relationships between identity (aspects such as age, gender, kinship, status) and lifeways (e.g., diet, mobility, health, activity).

■ The Arts

Across the Pond: Music from the United Kingdom

Nov. 20, 7:30–9 pm, St. Joseph High School Auditorium. The U of S Wind Orchestra presents Across the Pond: Music from the United Kingdom. Conducted by Darrin Oehlerking with special guest vocalist Barry Gable and featuring the music of Peter Meehan, Gustav Holst, Gordon Jacob, Ralph Vaughan Williams and the world premiere of Stillness by Tom Davoren. Admission \$10; seniors and students \$5. For more information, email darrin.oehlerking@usask.ca

A New Winter's Day

Nov. 22, 3–4:30 pm, Knox United Church, 838 Spadina Crescent E. The U of S Greystone Singers and University Chorus presents a New Winter's Day. Featuring works including Rutter's *Gloria*, Elgar's *The Snow*, Gjeilo's *The Ground* and a variety of seasonal and classic sacred, secular and spiritual selections. Join us as we celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the University Chorus. Admission \$15; seniors and students \$10. Tickets are available at McNally Robinson Booksellers, from choir members or at the door. For more information contact music.uofs@usask.ca or 306-966-6812.

The Story at the Centre: Writing and Publishing in the Digital Age

Nov. 24, 2–3:30 pm, Arts 208. The MFA in Writing Program presents Po-venber. November is poetry month at the College of Arts and Science. Join us for this free public talk as Cynthia Good presents "The Story at the Centre: Writing and Publishing in the Digital Age." Good is director of student and industry initiatives for the Creative Book Publishing Program at Humber College. She founded the publishing program at Humber after 20 years with Penguin Books, where she was president and publisher. For more information contact Jeanette Lynes at 306-966-2781 or artsandsandscience.usask.ca/iccc/graduate/mfa/

■ Miscellany

Long Day Against Procrastination

Nov. 22, 10 am–11 pm, Murray Library, get help with research, writing, math and stats, and study skills. Enjoy some snacks, workshops and more! Mark your calendars to get a lot of work done that day. This is followed by safe study on the ground floor.

Step Up and Stay Balanced

Nov. 22, 2–5 pm, R.J. Williams Building, 221 Cumberland Ave. N. The Saskatchewan Falls Prevention Consortium, in collaboration with the University of Saskatchewan and Osteoporosis Canada Saskatoon Chapter, are hosting a unique opportunity to hear from experts in the field of bone health and fall prevention and to experience some of the exciting research happening on campus. There will be a free come and go public forum and open house. Events include: top of the hour presentations, tours of labs in R.J. Williams and the College of Kinesiology, interactive displays and posters presented by researchers, community organizations and health professionals, and a chance to participate in an exercise demonstration focusing on activities to prevent falls and fracture.

What Does Food Security Mean to Canadians?

Nov. 26, 7–9pm, Louis' Loft. This panel discussion will bring together researchers from several disciplines to dialogue about various aspects of food security and hidden hunger. It will address whether we are any closer to achieving food security (why or why not) at the local, national and global levels. The interactive discussion will address opportunities and approaches to dealing with food security, in addition to examining where progress has been made in achieving food security as well as strategies for the future. Everyone welcome.

Cameco Spectrum 2016

Jan. 14–17, 2016, 9am–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 or email emma.greendale@spectrum.usask.ca

PRINTING NOTICE

GET YOUR JOBS IN EARLY!



Christmas is around the corner, and it is time to send a quick reminder to everyone on campus, that you need to submit your print and design jobs early.

Printing Services experiences very high demand during December, as it is exam, new class preparation, and the holiday season. **The result is our regular three business day production window will become five days.** Additionally, we will be closed December 25, 2015 to January 01 2016.



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► SUBMIT

Coming events

Next OCN: Friday, Dec. 4
Deadline: Thursday, Nov. 26

Email ocn@usask.ca

The heart of campus

Grit McCreath named first honorary ambassador at the U of S

✍ KRIS FOSTER

Education—and indeed the University of Saskatchewan—has always been important to Grit McCreath and her family.

From being a student and alumna, to a member of the University Senate and the Board of Governors—and most recently being appointed the university's honorary ambassador—McCreath has held many roles at the U of S.

But her connection to campus goes back further than her time as a student. “As a young girl I would go to classes with my mom and got to know all the nooks and crannies. It was so cool to be on campus,” McCreath recalled.

McCreath is a first generation Canadian. Her parents, both academics in Europe (her father survived the Gulag), came to Canada in the 1949. Though well-educated, upon arrival in Canada they were given only credit for one year of university and had to start their post-secondary educations again.

“My mom and dad both went to the U of S, they were always students,” explained McCreath, adding with a laugh that she too has spent a great amount of time as a student at the university.

But the U of S was a place that was more than libraries, labs and lecture halls for the family. “On Sundays we would pack up our VW Bug and have picnics

on campus, or go see a concert, or visit a museum. My parents would bring students home for dinner. It was absolutely central to my life growing up.”

There was no question, McCreath continued, “that I would attend the U of S.” And she did, earning a bachelor of education degree and spending 32 years as a teacher and education administrator in Saskatoon, Toronto, Edmonton and Calgary.

No matter the distance, there has never been a time in McCreath's life that she has not been connected to the U of S, from childhood to today. One of her own sons attended the U of S, she and her spouse Scott McCreath, a graduate of the College of Commerce, have hosted countless alumni events, and she served on both the University Senate and the Board of Governors.

“I was sad, after three years on senate and six years on the board, that it was coming to an end,” she said. “At my last board meeting in July, they presented me with a certificate that named me as honorary ambassador. I was overwhelmed and absolutely delighted!”

McCreath, in this new role,



Grit McCreath, honorary ambassador.

DAVID STOBBE

“ At my last board meeting in July, they presented me with a certificate that named me as honorary ambassador. I was overwhelmed and absolutely delighted!

Grit McCreath

role include meeting with and hosting alumni and donors, recruiting students, mentoring individuals and groups, attending university events and ceremonies, and providing the president with feedback from the community.

All of these things, McCreath said, she has been doing in some capacity for a number of years already.

“I've always been a small ‘a’ ambassador for the U of S,” McCreath said, adding that the job description, evolutionary in nature, comes with a big “A.”

“We have every confidence that Grit will uphold everything the university stands for,” said Williamson. “She reflects the university's values.”

“The university is essential to the province and so many people are connected to it and have pride in it. I get to share that with others,” said McCreath. “My parents would be over-the-moon proud of this.” ■

has possibly found the perfect job, albeit one that does not come with a paycheck.

“I adore the university and as an honorary ambassador, get to share with others all the things that make this such an incredible place,” explained McCreath.

University Secretary Beth Williamson said that McCreath, through dedicating so much time to the university over the years, was an individual the Board of Governors did not want to lose.

So the board, Williamson continued, came up with the idea of an honorary ambassador so that the university would continue to be a place where McCreath could still invest her

time and energy and help the university.

“Grit has a vast number of skills; she is intuitive, a strong leader, and is such a delightful person who has friends and connections across the country,” Williamson explained. “She has a great love for the university and we wanted to find a way to continue to tap into all of that.”

McCreath also has extensive experience as both an educator and administrator in the K-12 education system, Williamson continued, and knows “how to connect and appeal to students of all ages. That is of great benefit to the university.”

Some of the duties that McCreath will take on in this

GETTING SOCIAL WITH MEDIA

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

usask

University of Saskatchewan

Published by Sprout Social | 11 • 23 hrs • Edited • 0

The U of S made Buzzfeed's list of 18 Gorgeous Campuses that will Make you Proud to be Canadian but we're not really surprised. 🇨🇦

18 Beautiful University Campuses In Canada That Will Take Your Breath Away

Eat your heart out, Hogwarts.

HTTP://BZFD.F11RZJOLU | BY KAT ANGUS

104,392 people reached

Lesley Porter, Jennifer Thoms, Amber Fusco and 936 others like this.

@UsaskPresOffice

Usask President @UsaskPresOffice - Nov 11

Great ceremony at the Memorial Gates this afternoon. #LestWeForget

7 7

@UsaskPresOffice

Usask President @UsaskPresOffice - 8m

A beautiful day for a TNC forum. #TRCusask

4 1

@WCVMToday

WCVM Today @WCVMToday - 19h

Tali and her owner PJ are helping us with the @WCVMToday equine lameness exam talk at #UofS.

@UofSEd

College of Education @UofSEd - Nov 4

Dean Prytula and son Nic are working hard for bring your kid to work day! #bjm #usask #YXEducation

2 0

@usaskSECC

UofS SECC @usaskSECC - 13h

Stress plus work is not a good mix. Make tomorrow a much less stressful workday [ow.ly/Uzm29](#)

Knowledge is beautiful.

The University of Saskatchewan deals in knowledge; it's in every lab, classroom, facility and office on campus. This year's back page feature is searching for that specialized knowledge that creates beautiful results and helps make the U of S a wonderful place to work and study.

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When pigs fly

Growing up on a farm, Carolyn Cartwright, veterinary technologist and lead of specialties at the Western College of Veterinary Medicine (WCVI), spent a lot of time around animals, especially horses.

But it was one little pig that captured her heart about 10 years ago.

"He was running at large on campus one Halloween," she recalled, allegedly part of a prank between two rival colleges. Young, small and hungry—no more than two pounds—the pig was captured and brought to the WCVI Veterinary Medical Centre for examination.

Nobody claimed ownership of the pig, so Cartwright adopted it. He now lives the sweet life at her family farm just outside the city, alongside many horses, cats and dogs.

It is that love of animals that piqued Cartwright's interest in working with them. She completed her training at the Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology (SIAT, now known as Saskatchewan Polytechnic) in 1985 and started at the WCVI that same year. While her specialty is anesthesia (she is the only technologist in the province with that level of certification), her 30 years on campus have given her the opportunity to cross-train in many areas, including the small and large animal clinics, dentistry and the veterinary pharmacy. She also teaches third-year clinical components for WCVI students as well as courses for the veterinary technology course at her alma mater.

And as for that little pig? She named him Curtis, after the veterinary student who first told her about the situation all those years ago. "He thought it was an honour," she said.

