

SHOW ME THE MONEY

When the grain gridlock hit the Prairies, all attention was on the railways. Richard Gray, professor in the College of Agriculture and Bioresources was following the money and saw billions disappear. Read the full story on Page 5.

DAVID STOBBE

School of Public Health review

Task force report outlines next steps for school

✍ KRIS FOSTER

On the heels of the March 2015 external review of the School of Public Health, a series of consultations took place to determine next steps for the school.

From September to December 2015, the task force charged with this undertaking met with 68 individuals, including faculty, staff and students in the school and in the College of Medicine's Department of Community Health and Epidemiology, senior administration at the university, as well as many external partners, explained interim Provost Ernie Barber.

Stemming from those consultations, a series of eight recommendations were made, Barber said. Top among them is that "the School of Public Health should remain a distinct, free

standing academic and research entity," with this status being re-evaluated within two years.

"One of the many important outcomes of the external review and of the task force analysis is a recognition that, while the relationships between the school and the Department of Community Health and Epidemiology are important, there should be no intention or expectation that these two units be merged," explained Barber.

For George Mutwiri, the school's interim executive director, this is a key take away. "That there is consensus among

internal and external stakeholders that the school remain independent is very important. That is a really positive message."

Barber stressed that while there is no expectation of a merger, faculty of both units must meet as soon as possible to review the task force report and "clarify expectations that each has of the other during the upcoming work to refresh the vision of the school, to develop goals and to recruit the school's next executive director."

And while internal and external stakeholders reached consensus on the best governance structure for the school, Mutwiri said there was also consensus on the need for the school to strengthen relationships.

"Going forward there is an expectation to build stronger relationships, both on and off



Mutwiri

campus," said Mutwiri. "In this regard, we will be holding consultations that are necessary to move forward and refresh the mission, vision and goals of the school."

Another outcome of

those consultations, Mutwiri continued, is the "development of a strategic plan for the next five to 10 years."

Barber said that in response to the eight recommendations of the report, Mutwiri has been tasked with developing precise goals and metrics in order to evaluate progress.

"I have asked that those be developed and endorsed by the Provost's Committee on Integrated Planning by June 30, 2016, and followed by annual reports on progress," said Barber.

Another immediate action, Barber continued, is that the search for the school's next executive director—a search that was suspended pending the development of a university response to the external review—is to be resumed immediately.

See *Engagement*, Page 4



For the birds

New facility focuses on avian research

LESLEY PORTER

Bird health and the conservation of declining bird species are unifying themes for a new avian research centre on campus.

The Facility for Applied Avian Research is a combined indoor-outdoor research space set to open on May 1.

Spanning close to 350 square metres, the facility has six indoor bird rooms and 12 outdoor enclosures, capable of holding a large variety of bird species such as songbirds, waterfowl and raptors.

Tucked behind the Western College of Veterinary Medicine's Bovine Facility on Veterinary Road, it is one of only two such facilities in Canada capable of advanced research on birds, as well as the only facility of its kind dedicated to the studies of avian wildlife ecotoxicology and medicine.

Upon starting at the U of S in 2010, biology professor Christy Morrissey—who is also the principal applicant for the

facility—had a vision to do more captive research on wild birds.

“Most of our research capacity is on aquatic animals, so we have a lot of that,” she said. “We have an animal care facility mostly for small mammals to do health research, but no dedicated space to work on wildlife and no dedicated place to work on birds, other than poultry.”

Along with co-applicants John Giesy and Karen Machin, both from the Western College of Veterinary Medicine, the facility received infrastructure funding from the Canada Foundation for Innovation. Thanks to some internal contributions from the College of Arts and Science, the School of Environment and Sustainability, and the Office of the Vice-President Research, Morrissey's vision is now taking flight.

“The whole concept of the facility is to do multidisciplinary research on wild birds—that



Morrissey

could be anything from ecology and migration studies to toxicology work and veterinary medicine.”

Birds have a long, storied past as being excellent indicators of environmental conditions, Morrissey explained. Like the proverbial canary in a coal mine—where the bright, chirpy bird would accompany underground miners and cease to sing once the air became too toxic—



The Facility for Applied Avian Research.

birds still act as indicators of the health of the environment and potentially the health of the environment to support humans as well.

“Everything is magnified for them,” explained Morrissey. “They're smaller, their life spans are shorter in many cases and they are so dependent on their environment. Even subtle physiological changes, like the ways that chemicals are interacting

with their immune system and endocrine system, are all signaling problems, potentially for us, too.”

Besides magnifying potential environmental stressors, birds are highly visible—lots of people have backyard bird feeders or are birdwatchers—and well-studied in terms of their ecology, perhaps more than any

See *Identifying*, Page 3

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U of S ready to launch new pharmacy curriculum in fall 2017

✍️ KIERAN KOBITZ

The University of Saskatchewan will launch a Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD) program in fall 2017 to replace the Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy as the first professional degree required to practice as a licensed pharmacist.

“Pharmacists’ roles are changing and we’re proactively adapting our curriculum for these new roles,” said Kishor Wasan, dean of the College of Pharmacy and Nutrition. “Our graduates will be competitive in the job market, and they’ll have the skills needed to provide the best possible care to their patients.”

The new program, Wasan said, is designed to provide the skills and knowledge necessary for pharmacists to practice as their roles in the healthcare system expand.

“As recent as 2015, pharmacists in Saskatchewan were

granted new responsibilities, such as administering flu vaccines and prescribing medications for minor ailments, such as cold sores or seasonal allergies,” Wasan said.

“Pharmacists’ roles are changing and we’re proactively adapting our curriculum for these new roles. Our graduates will be competitive in the job market.”

Kishor Wasan

“In the new curriculum, all four years of the program will be spent learning the science and skills of pharmacy, including a substantial experiential learning component,” said Wasan.

This is a significant change

compared to the current pharmacy program in which students take classes in basic sciences, such as chemistry and pharmacology, during their first two years, while pharmacy classes are scheduled in the third and fourth years. Under the new curriculum, students will be required to complete at least two years of pre-requisite classes before applying to the pharmacy program.

The new curriculum will include 40 weeks of experiential learning, with 32 weeks of advanced practice in the fourth year. The first three years of the program include two four-week practice experiences, as well as smaller weekly opportunities.

Wasan said that out of 10 pharmacy schools in Canada, five have already introduced programs like this (known as entry-to-practice PharmD



Wasan

programs).

“The U of S is keeping pace with a changing industry that requires evolving education,” said Wasan, adding that two other Canadian pharmacy schools will also introduce a PharmD program in 2017.

In the Doctor of Pharmacy program, the tuition rate will be \$17,000 per student per year,

which is an increase over the current bachelor degree program.

Pharmacists who hold the existing Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy will continue to have their degrees recognized by the Saskatchewan College of Pharmacy Professionals, the regulatory body for pharmacists and pharmacy technicians in Saskatchewan. A bridging program for those pharmacists interested in upgrading to the Doctor of Pharmacy will be developed after the new program is implemented.

The new degree program has been passed by the Board of Governors and University Council and confirmed by University Senate. Regular updates on the Doctor of Pharmacy curriculum development process are available at: words.usask.ca/pharmd. ■

Kieran Kobitz is a communications specialist in the College of Pharmacy and Nutrition.

Bringing the U of S together under One Health

✍️ HENRYTYE GLAZEBROOK

When you spend a lifetime studying a single discipline, it can become a challenge to effectively communicate with those from other fields.

As an associate professor at the U of S Western College of Veterinary Medicine, Tasha Epp is quite familiar with this problem. Her work could have her interacting with experts in human health, agriculture and beyond, and she wants to make

the collaborative process as simple as possible.

“When we’re talking with people from other disciplines, sometimes you’re not always speaking the same language even when you’re speaking the same words,” she said, explaining how technical definitions can be very different even when terminology is quite similar.

To make that goal a reality, Epp is helping to guide the

creation of the university’s One Health certificate, a new program that merges disciplines to the benefit of students and researchers alike.

One Health is an undergraduate program built around blending the disciplines available on campus, bringing together researchers to work collaboratively and training students in areas they might otherwise have no interaction with. Implementation is currently aimed at an official launch in fall 2016.

The certificate is adapted from what is known as One Medicine, a popular program in American schools that combines human and veterinary medicine. The result is an initiative that looks at broader issues than either can fully tackle separately, such as cross-species diseases and the effects not just on living beings but also on the environment they live in and the food they rely on.

But once food, water and environment came into play, Epp said, it was only natural to bring other U of S disciplines into the fold as they planned One Health’s implementation.

“How can you look at water or agriculture without bringing in the environmental sciences? For us here it really became much broader than just looking at human and veterinary medicine. We’ve really taken it quite a bit further than other proponents for one health have,” she said.

In fact, even though similar



Farnese



Epp

programs exist elsewhere in the country, the resources available at the U of S will make its One Health certificate the first of its kind in Canada.

“We are the only campus in Canada that has all the health sciences plus veterinary medicine on the same campus, as well as agriculture, schools of environment and of public health,” Epp said.

“We’re quite unique in that way, and it allows us to bring together a number of disciplines that many other universities would not be able to inside themselves.”

Patricia Farnese is a perfect example of One Health—for which she is also on the organizational committee—in motion.

As an associate professor of law, Farnese does not jump to mind when discussing health sciences. However, since her work involves the regulation of infectious diseases and its connection

to wildlife and environmental land use, she fits quite well under One Health’s umbrella structure.

Farnese emphasized the strengths that One Health could provide to students just entering the academic world, providing them with a broader spectrum of knowledge to pull from as they go into their careers increasing their ability to collaborate with peers from other areas of research.

“It will give students the opportunity to see things that are outside of their disciplinary experience. Particularly for students who are in the health professions and law, it’s an opportunity to develop some skills inter-professionally,” Farnese said.

“It’s a chance to think about your frames and understandings, and how those might be different than somebody else’s and, as you go to work with them in the future, to think about ways that you can overcome those boundaries more effectively.” ■

Identifying threats to birds

From Page 2

other group of organisms on the planet, added Morrissey. Yet many, including song birds and long-distance migratory species, are declining very rapidly.

Morrissey’s main research focus is primarily environmental contaminants, such as pesticides and industrial pollutants, and how these affect avian physiology and ultimately their ability to reproduce—things that “are just really hard to study conclusively in nature,” she said.

For that reason, she hopes the facility will make headway in identifying some of the major threats to birds and how they can be mitigated through conserva-

tion action.

“It might seem counter-intuitive bringing birds into captivity—how is that conserving birds?—but you need to study a small number of individuals,” said Morrissey, explaining that many birds do well in captivity. “Many species are quite happy to be suddenly fed, to be frank.”

Additionally, testing birds in a captive setting can weed out a host of variables encountered in field studies.

“As a researcher, trying to control and figure out what is the problem is really difficult,” she said. “If we study them we can have a better understanding of what’s going on with a whole suite of other species that maybe aren’t as well studied or well known.” ■

NEW TO US

Enchuan Shao

Enchuan Shao was seven years into his position as a senior analyst with the Bank of Canada in Ottawa when he decided to join the U of S as an assistant professor in the Department of Economics in July 2015.

To use the parlance of economics, one might say he was moved by compelling incentives: specifically, freedom to follow his curiosity.

"In academics, you always can find interesting questions to work on, but at a public institute, research is very directed," Shao said. "Your research has to fit a specific agenda or topic."

This was fine for one of his research interests, monetary theory. But his other passion, labour market theory, was something relegated to his spare time.

"That's why I wanted to move back to academia, because I love to work on those macro labour issues like unemployment, business cycles, how to think about specific labour market policies, those types of questions," he said.

He explained an example is the market forces that affect full-time permanent jobs versus temporary jobs in the marketplace. Employers will often hire on a contract or probationary basis at first, then, if the person works out, offer a full-time slot. For scarce skill sets, this period might be shortened or waived entirely. Government policies can also affect behavior, for example, hiring employees just below the full-time-hours threshold to avoid paying full benefits.

"So we try to build a theory to explain why we see such a large fraction of the workforce as temporary workers. What drives the firms' decisions and the workers' decisions?" Shao said. "Also we look at any implications for the labour market, especially if the government wants to intervene and what kind of tools are effective."

Originally from Guangzhou, China, Shao completed an undergraduate degree in management science and a master's degree in economics in China before coming to the United States. He picked up another master's degree—this one in mathematics—and a PhD in economics from the University of Iowa before joining the faculty of San Francisco State University for a year before coming to Canada.

Shao has high praise for his new department, both in its high quality of research to inform public policy and its graduates, who go on to work in Saskatchewan's public and private institutions, or to some of the top PhD programs across the country.

U of S chancellor extends term into fall

Blaine Favel, whose three-year term as chancellor of the University of Saskatchewan ends June 30, has agreed to stay on in the role until a new chancellor is named, likely at the end of October.

"We are delighted that Chancellor Favel, who has played a key role in enhancing our reputation as a national leader in post-secondary education for Indigenous peoples, has agreed to stay on while the nomination process is underway to identify the university's 15th chancellor," said Greg Smith, chair of the U of S Board of Governors.

"It has been a great honour to serve as chancellor of the U of S and to advocate for this world-class institution which is blessed with extraordinary scholars, students and administrators," said Favel, who is the first Aboriginal chancellor in the U15 group of Canadian Research Universities.

"It has been an inspiration to me that the U of S is making such a difference both here in Saskatchewan, as well as on the national and global stage," said Favel. "I am particularly pleased that I have been able to participate in shaping what Indigenous success will look like, and grateful that it will remain a priority of the president, the board and the academy."

Last fall, Favel and U of S President Peter Stoicheff co-hosted a national forum "Building Reconciliation: Universities Answering the TRC's Calls to Action" that attracted 200 participants including Canadian


Favel

university presidents and their leadership teams, First Nations and Métis leaders, scholars, and student leaders.

"Over the past three years, Chancellor Favel has supported and guided the university in strengthening our connections with Indigenous communities and leaders, both provincially and federally, and in helping advance our efforts to build reconciliation and close the education gap," said Stoicheff. "The groundwork is now laid for the university to become the best place it can possibly be for Indigenous students and their communities."

Stoicheff said the university looks forward to continuing its relationship with Favel after he steps down as chancellor and to

his contributions to the university's ongoing efforts to advance Indigenous education initiatives and ensure Aboriginal student success.

Favel, former Grand Chief of the Federation of Saskatchewan Indians, holds an education degree from the U of S, a law degree from Queen's University, and a master's of business administration from the Harvard Graduate School of Business, as well as an honorary doctor of laws from the U of S. He served in Ottawa as international trade counsellor on international Indigenous issues, and was president and CEO of a Calgary-based oil and gas company. He served as a special advisor to former Assembly of First Nations National Chief Phil Fontaine and as a panelist on the national Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

Duties of the U of S chancellor include presiding over university convocation ceremonies, conferring degrees, chairing University Senate and serving as an ex-officio member of the Board of Governors. The deadline for nominations for the position of chancellor is July 15. The nomination committee will take forward a recommendation to the Oct. 15 meeting of Senate.

Complete the nomination form at usask.ca/secretariat. ■

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news.usask.ca

Engagement key to school success

From Page 1

"The successful candidate will be one who embraces the challenge of rebuilding the School of Public Health and who recognizes the expectation of an internal unit review two to three years into their mandate," Barber said.

While the task force's report, echoing the external

review, recognized that status quo is not sustainable, Mutwiri said the report also highlighted a number of ongoing improvements in the school over the past year.

"It found that the student learning experience in the school was very good, very positive and improved from the previous years," said Mutwiri, adding that he felt that faculty engagement has also improved.

Additionally, Mutwiri continued, the report also pointed to all the potential within the school, specifically "the impact the school can have in a province with such a large Indigenous population. And again, that will require more consultation with Aboriginal communities."

Mutwiri acknowledged that there is lots to do and that "We are going to be very busy in the coming months." ■

Members of the task force, appointed by the provost, include:

Lois Berry (chair)
College of Nursing

Liz Harrison
School of Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation Sciences, College of Medicine

Bob Tyler
College of Agriculture and Bioresources

John Rigby
Institutional Planning and Assessment

Sylvia Abonyi
Department of Community Health and Epidemiology, College of Medicine

Julie Kryzanowski
Saskatoon Health Region

Dana Ramsay
PhD student, School of Public Health

Suresh Tikoo
School of Public Health



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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ISSN: 1195-7654 PUBLICATIONS MAIL AGREEMENT NO. 40065156

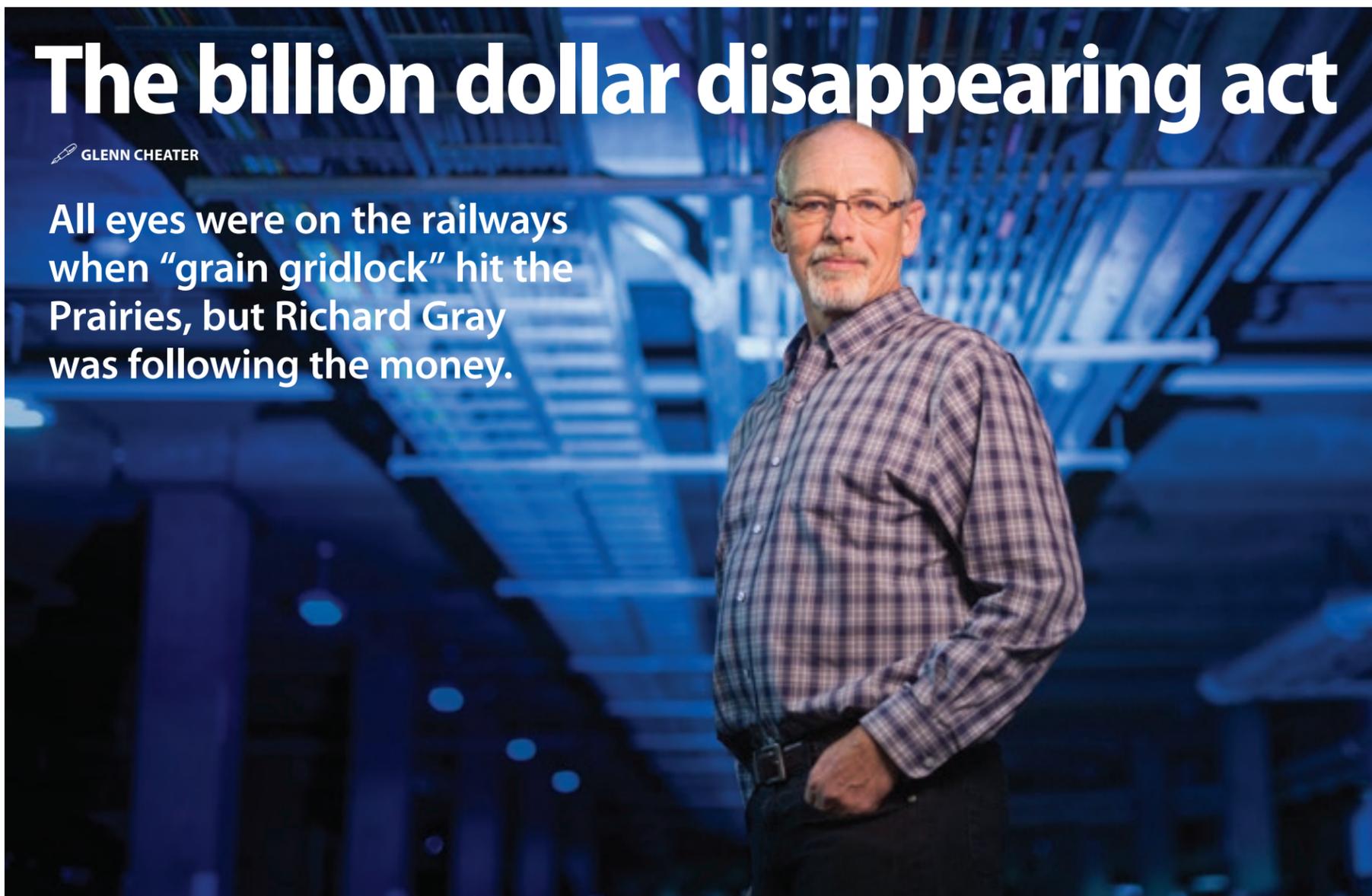
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The billion dollar disappearing act

GLENN CHEATER

All eyes were on the railways when “grain gridlock” hit the Prairies, but Richard Gray was following the money.



Richard Gray, professor in the Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics at the University of Saskatchewan.

DAVID STOBBE

It was September 2013, and Richard Gray watched wheat flood into the combine hopper at a farm near Indian Head, Sask.

“We realized within 20 minutes it was actually yielding far better than it looked,” recalled Gray: a head-turning 15 bushels an acre more than they were expecting.

Gray owns the farm with his son and is its head marketing guy. He is also a professor in the Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics at the University of Saskatchewan. It was his academic side that saw clouds looming that would soon slip billions of dollars from farmers’ pockets.

“All the reports (from across the Prairies) were that crops were looking very good,” Gray said. “I knew if they turned out to be bumper crops, it was going to tax the transportation system to the limit. There was no way they would be able to move it all in a year.”

Gray had to make the call: haul now, or wait.

“We decided to deliver most of our wheat crop directly to the elevator,” he said. “Within a month or less, all the elevators were pretty full.”

Normally, “selling off the combine” means taking less, as prices are usually lowest at harvest. But this record-smashing 94-million-tonne behemoth was not normal. Bins quickly filled, and the excess went into grain bags or was simply piled on the ground and covered with tarps.

A harsh winter made things worse. In extreme cold, trains must be shorter and travel more

slowly. Soon dozens of empty grain freighters were anchored on the West Coast, awaiting delivery. Farmers howled in protest, demanding Ottawa force CN and CP Rail to move more grain. Their ire may have

“Farmers are very good problem solvers. If they’re made aware of issues and have the right information, they can be a big part of the solution.”

Richard Gray

been partly misplaced.

So while farmers focused on railways, Gray followed the money, specifically something called basis. This is what farmers pay grain companies to handle and transport grain to port.

“My colleagues and I started hearing some numbers about port price and elevator price, and there was a huge gap,” he said. “Farmers were selling grain well below port prices and it was costing them an awful lot of money.”

Gray did not know exactly how much, so he and his colleagues hastily organized a symposium to have a look.

Meanwhile, the federal government issued an order-in-council requiring the railways to each move 500,000 tonnes of grain weekly or face fines of \$100,000 per day. But Gray said the “much broader issue” was being ignored.

“This went well beyond what the railways were doing. These basis levels were not a few cents

or few dollars a tonne higher than normal—they were \$50 to \$100 higher. That’s an awfully big number.”

Multiply those per-tonne costs by 103 million tonnes sold during the two years it took to export that record crop and you get \$6.5 billion. Gray said that is the conservative estimate—it could easily have been a couple of billion higher.

Cue more farmer outrage? Actually, reaction was mixed.

“For a lot of producers, it was like, ‘Well, there’s nothing I can do about it,’” Gray said. “Some said, ‘Surely, there’s something wrong with your calculations,’ but others said, ‘We need to push on this.’”

And push is what they did. SaskWheat, which commissioned Gray’s report, made the lost billions its top federal election issue. The Producer Shipper Coalition (made up of several leading provincial farm groups) made it the centrepiece of its presentation last year to a blue-chip independent federal panel reviewing rail transportation.

“Farmers are very good problem solvers,” Gray said. “If they’re made aware of issues and have the right information, they can be a big part of the solution. To bring about changes, you need producers who are informed.”

Gray advocates boosting capacity—everything from more railcars and longer sidings to faster unloading and more grain storage at ports. He has made the case for an independent body able to co-ordinate grain movement

when the next mammoth crop comes along, and it will.

Bad years now produce bigger harvests than the “bin busters” of a generation ago. Without more capacity and a referee to prevent grain gridlock, “the wheels will fall off very quickly,” Gray said. But it will take time.

“Typically, there’s a slow change in people’s perceptions and then those perceptions become more widely held beliefs, and then slowly there’s change after that,” he said.

But when change does happen, no one throws a parade for the economist who brought the issue to light. Groups cite

the big payback from research, often using figures from Gray’s extensive work in this area.

“I’ve seen (my) numbers show up a lot of times, but it’s not like breeding a new variety of wheat, where you can say, ‘That’s mine, I did that,’” he said.

But it is all about “framing the debate” so people are thinking and talking about the issues that matter.

“Accounting isn’t an end in itself. It’s useful to draw attention to the issues so you can actually find solutions. That was the focus right from the start.” ■

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Huskies' Dale determined to juggle athletics and academics

JAMES SHEWAGA

Donovan Dale may have a long Canadian Football League (CFL) career ahead of him, but he is already planning for life after football.

The University of Saskatchewan Huskies all-star is preparing for his first training camp with the Ottawa Redblacks after signing a CFL contract last month following his all-Canadian season in 2015. While his immediate future is focused on football, Dale's passion for tackling training is matched by his off-field commitment to hitting the books as he works towards completing a master's degree at the U of S.

"I am pretty aware of the fact that the average pro football career is actually just a year or two, so you can't just sit back and say I am going to have a 10-year career in the CFL and then not have any plans for after that," said Dale, a 24-year-old kinesiology student from Saskatoon. "That's why it is definitely important for me to make sure that I still continue with my education and make sure I get that master's finished."

A formidable force on the defensive line, the 6-foot-1, 290-pound Dale finished first in the Canada West conference (and fourth in the country) with eight quarterback sacks in eight games on his way to earning his third straight all-Canadian award. Originally passed over in the CFL draft in 2015, Dale quickly signed his first two-year professional contract in March after being added to the Redblacks' negotiation list.

"I know there's a lot of people who would kill for the opportunities that I've got."

Donovan Dale

Dale was in Ottawa this week taking part in his first Redblacks mini-camp and returns to the nation's capital on May 23 for the start of Redblacks rookie camp, with main training camp starting a week later.

While he would love to have Dale back for a fifth and final season with the Huskies, head coach Brian Towriss believes

Dale has a great chance to crack the Redblacks' roster.

"Depending on what happens in the (CFL) draft in the next couple of weeks here, it looks like he is going into a situation where roster-wise he has a good opportunity," said Towriss, who has sent plenty of players to pro football during his 32-year career as Huskies head coach. "We would like to have him back for another year as he finishes his master's degree, but if he has an opportunity to play pro, it has been a lifelong dream and he can certainly pursue his education on top of that." Dale graduated with great distinction (for an average of better than 80 per cent) with a Bachelor of Science in kinesiology from the U of S last spring. Dale split his semesters between Saskatoon and Vancouver for two years while attending both the U of S and the University of British Columbia as part of Canada's visiting student program and suited up for the Thunderbirds football team for two seasons before returning to the U of S full-time last year and joining



Dale

the Huskies.

A master of multi-tasking, Dale's dawn-to-dusk daily duties have been daunting, but he has excelled both on and off the field while juggling sports and studies, training and textbooks, while also working with young athletes in the evenings as a strength and conditioning coach. If that wasn't enough, he also became a parent last month, after his wife Charissa gave birth to their daughter Evie.

"I think I get maybe an hour of free time in a day," said Dale, who wrote his final exams last week. "It's definitely busy, but I

knew coming into this that it was going to be like this and I don't like to complain about being busy because I know there's a lot of people who would kill for the opportunities that I've got."

The dictionary definition of a true student-athlete, Dale has been a remarkable role model for the Huskies.

"Donovan is a good student and he's in a little bit different place in his life than a lot of our kids," said Towriss. "He is married and has a child and he has been more than just a student-athlete here. He has a good work ethic, he has his priorities straightened out and he has learned to manage all of those things ... He is a good role model."

While he plans to be the next Huskies player to play professionally, Dale hopes his commitment to both academics and athletics sets an example to follow for young players in the program.

"A lot of times you are getting a scholarship to play football, so you are getting an opportunity that a lot of students

See *Opportunity*, Page 9

Celebration of TEACHING


Nolan


Roy


Osgood


Garcea


Brenna


Tannous


Johnston


Chilibeck


Hoehn


D'Eon


Bullin


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Kim


Bruni-Bossio


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Provost's Outstanding Teaching Awards
The Provost's College Awards for Outstanding Teaching and the Provost's Themed Teaching Awards are presented annually to recognize outstanding teaching across campus.

The 2016 recipients of the Provost's Awards for Outstanding Teaching, which are put forward by each college on campus, are:

- James Nolan**, College of Agriculture and Bioresources
- Wendy Roy**, College of Arts and Science (Humanities and Fine Arts)
- Nathaniel Osgood**, College of Arts Science (Science)
- Joe Garcea**, College of Arts Science (Social Science)
- Beverley Brenna**, College of Education
- George Tannous**, Edwards School of Business
- J.D. Johnston**, College of Engineering
- Philip Chilibeck**, College of Kinesiology
- Felix Hoehn**, College of Law
- Marcel D'Eon**, College of Medicine
- Carol Ann Bullin**, College of Nursing
- Holly Mansell**, College of Pharmacy and Nutrition
- Gillian Muir**, Western College of Veterinary Medicine

The 2015 recipients of the Provost's Themed Teaching Awards, which are selected by a committee of faculty and U of S Students' Union and Graduate Students' Association representatives, are:

- Provost's Award for Outstanding Graduate Teaching**
Soo Y. Kim, School of Physical Therapy
- Provost's Award for Outstanding New Teacher**
Vince Bruni-Bossio, Edwards School of Business
- Kathryn Labelle**, College of Arts and Science
- Provost's Award for Outstanding Graduate Student Teacher**
Noura Sheikhalzoor, College of Pharmacy and Nutrition

Images of Research

The winners of the second annual Images of Research competition were announced April 27. The top images were selected in a range of categories as well as a viewer's choice category. Close to 100 images were submitted this year. View all winners, as well as runners up, at: research.usask.ca/images-of-research.php



Grand Prize

Deep Hanging Out

Rachel Phillips Hall, graduate student, Department of Archaeology and Anthropology, College of Arts and Science

Susan Sontag (1990) suggests that photography captures and selects, but also interprets our view of the world. Like photography, ethnography is an artisanal practice that involves interpretive and political choices. This particular photograph, I believe, captures the core complexities of my ethnographic experience in southern Belize. That is, by engaging and participating in the daily lives of my participants, I gained a deeper understanding of the complex experiences of Maya communities in Toledo, Belize, where infectious and non-communicable diseases converge with the stresses of everyday poverty. My research provides unique insight into how individual-level factors contribute to the health and well-being of these communities, thereby exemplifying how public health can apply anthropological approaches to provide insight into complex epidemiological trends.



Viewers' Choice

Colours of Chemistry

Hridaynath Bhattacharjee, PhD student, Department of Chemistry, College of Arts and Science

Human eyes are always attracted by colours. Maybe that is why flowers are widely appreciated all over the world. For the same reason, chemistry becomes one of the favourite subjects when kids are introduced to science. I was introduced to this colourful part of chemistry in a science workshop. Eventually I chose chemistry as my field of study and now enjoying this colourful world of research. This picture depicts the wide range of colours you can see in different chemical compounds whether they are in the form of powder, shining crystals or solutions. As a researcher in chemistry, my field work is all about working with these beautiful compounds in the laboratory and I love it.



Best Description

One point nine billion years in the making

Camille Partin, assistant professor, Department of Geological Sciences, College of Arts and Science

The past can be a beautiful place to work. This photo was taken during geological field work in Arctic Greenland. Coastal mountains expose ancient ocean sediments that were thrust onto the continent about 1.9 billion years before the present time. These rocks in west Greenland hold special significance, as they were once connected to Canada and record an ancient mountain-building event that helped form the Canadian Shield on which we live today. Studying these rocks not only garners scientific data that helps us understand the complex history of the Earth, but can also provide economic benefits as they often host base and precious metal mineral deposits used by modern society.



Community and Impact

A horse's eye view

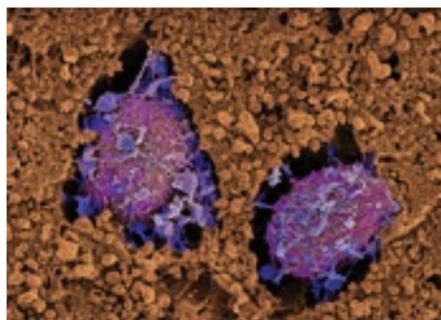
Amber-Lynn Backwell, undergraduate student, Western College of Veterinary Medicine



From the Field

Not Your Average Gopher

Colleen Crill, master's student, Department of Biology, College of Arts and Science



More than Meets the Eye

Capturing Memories

Veronica Finkas, undergraduate student, College of Arts and Science



Research in Action

The Auroral Radar

Ashton Reimer, PhD student, Department of Physics and Engineering Physics, College of Arts and Science

GETTING SOCIAL WITH MEDIA

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

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64 likes

usask Dude the dog is having the best day today! You still have time to PAWS your stress and visit him in the Murray Library. Him and his friends are there until 2pm. The dogs will be back Wednesday from noon-2. #exams #usask #FAW'Syourstress

@CTVBlair

Blair Farthing @CTVBlair - Apr 27
A guitar-playing gem-gear!! We're finding out what @usask President @SusanPhillipsOffice is like out of the office!

@usask

usask

443 likes

usask Get outside! It's beautiful! #usask #campus #feelslikesummer

@the_BCBC

BridgeCityBlueCoop @the_BCBC
Huge shout out and thanks to @usask for donating 25 bikes! We'll be sure to find them good homes @usask #usask #eyes

The puzzle of childhood asthma

According to the Lung Association, almost three million Canadians and more than 300 million people worldwide have asthma. Of those, roughly 100,000 Saskatchewan people are living with asthma, including 35,000 children.

“Asthma is one of the most common childhood conditions,” said Joshua Lawson, epidemiologist with the Canadian Centre for Health and Safety in Agriculture (CCHSA) at the U of S. “It is estimated between 14 and 21 per cent of kids in Saskatchewan have the disease.”

Several studies suggest farming or rural exposures are protective against asthma, the reasons for which are unknown. While one explanation may be the environment, including endotoxins, those same exposures may actually worsen asthma among those with the condition. Endotoxins, substances associated with the outer membrane of certain bacteria, are found in household dust—that is, basically everywhere in the indoor environment.

“Given the puzzling nature of the relationship between some environmental exposures and asthma, it is important to investigate exposures other than endotoxin in order to help us understand the cause of the disease and identify agents which may trigger episodes,” Lawson said.

In 2014, Lawson and his CCHSA team, including George Katselis, Donna Rennie and Shelley Kirychuk, were awarded a Saskatchewan Health Research Foundation (SHRF) Collaborative Innovation Development Grant co-funded by the Lung Association of Saskatchewan. The grant supports their work to identify constituents in dust and quantify their relationship with asthma, and assess personal monitoring as a way of collecting dust samples.

“Typically, studies rely on settled dust from carpets and mattresses to assess the role of endotoxin and childhood asthma,” Lawson said. “But the difficulty with that is it may not account for the child’s true exposure which can include other home or outdoor environments such as the farming environment and where children may be playing.”

To get more accurate information, the team plans to outfit children for one week with a backpack device whose air intake sits at head level to better monitor the ambient air. This will give the researchers a better perspective of what the children

“Asthma is one of the most common childhood conditions. It is estimated between 14 and 21 per cent of kids in Saskatchewan have the disease.”

Joshua Lawson

Joshua Lawson, epidemiologist with the Canadian Centre for Health and Safety in Agriculture.

KRIS FOSTER

are actually breathing and what they are exposed to as opposed to what is collected in settled dust.

The team’s pilot study will be based on a recent cross-sectional survey of approximately 3,400 Grade 1 to 8 children in Saskatchewan who lived along an urban-rural gradient including children

living in Regina, Prince Albert, and the rural area around Prince Albert.

“Even though kids living on farms or in rural areas may be less likely to have asthma compared to those living in urban areas, we still have a problem because, in Saskatchewan, 14 per cent of kids living in rural areas have

asthma,” Lawson said.

The new research methods will be used to further explore rural and farming exposures in relation to childhood asthma. ■

A version of this story originally appeared in *Research for Health*, published by the Saskatchewan Health Research Foundation.

Protecting mind and body

Protective Services training addresses mental health

LESLEY PORTER

Starting in June, Protective Services will start using a new training program to better equip officers dealing with mental health-related issues on campus.

“It’s not unusual for police

officers to do scenario-type training,” said Harold Shiffman, the operations manager at Protective Services. Typically, this is use-of-force training, where the end goal is to reduce tensions and diffuse situations peacefully.

The training was developed by Yasmeeen Krameddine and Peter Silverstone, two researchers from the University of Alberta’s Department of Psychiatry. Their research-based approach emphasizes the interaction between officers and those who have a potential mental illness—focusing on improving empathy, communication skills and the ability of officers to de-escalate those tense situations.

With Edmonton police officers serving as the guinea pigs for the training program, actors were brought in to enact specific scenarios involving mental duress, ranging from hallucinations to depressive behaviour to potential domestic conflict. Feedback would follow each session, where the actors

and officers could debrief the situation and identify other approaches to the situation. The day-long scenario training had an impressive rate of success: officers were able to verbally de-escalate more situations and the use of force for mental health calls reduced annually for three years in a row. Officers also reported feeling more empathetic and better equipped to communicate with the public.

The current training regimen used by Protective Services, called Mental Health First Aid, is primarily book-based and is standardized for police forces throughout the province, said Shiffman. One of his colleagues brought the research to his attention a few years ago, and “we immediately became interested in it.”

However, the price tag—which included travel to and from Edmonton as well as the training sessions—was insurmountable. Once Krameddine

See *Timing*, Page 9



Harold Shiffman, operations manager at Protective Services.

U of S SUPPLIER

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Going, going, green

Sustainability plans Green Give and Go swap

✍️ HENRYTYE GLAZEBROOK

If people do not start living more sustainably soon, Matt Wolsfeld is worried that Saskatoon may find itself in a waste management crisis.

As community engagement co-ordinator with the U of S Office of Sustainability, Wolsfeld is helping to encourage the reuse and reduction of materials at the university that might otherwise be tossed in the trash.

“On the wide end of the spectrum, within 50 years the (city) landfill will probably be full. At that point, we have to start looking at where we create another one and how we create our waste in the future,” he said.

“From a practical perspective, we have to address the waste issue. It’s been creeping up on us, and now it’s at a point where we have to address that.”

Wolsfeld is part of a team planning Green Give and Go, a two-day event designed as an opportunity for students moving out of residence to lessen their impact on the environment as they head home for the summer or find a new home off-campus.

The big draw of Green Give and Go is what Wolsfeld refers to as the swap table, an open area that invites participants to bring in unwanted items so that they can be scooped up by anyone who might be interested.

“It’s going to be a free swap table. Anybody can bring down anything that they’re not using, that’s old, that they were going to get rid of when they



Wolsfeld

move out—just leave it at the table and anyone is free to take it,” Wolsfeld said, adding that while the idea is targeted toward students, staff and faculty are welcome to take part as well.

In order to curb concern over the spread of bedbugs, which could spread like wildfire at these kinds of events if not properly managed, Wolsfeld said that bedding materials will not be accepted as part of the swap table. Other items that seem potentially problematic will be handled on a case-by-case basis by organizers.

Though Green Give and Go will also help with proper collection of recycling, landfill waste, electronics and hazardous waste—the latter of which Wolsfeld said will likely be mostly made up of household cleaners—the overall goal is to encourage sustainable living and highlight the benefits of reduction and reuse of household items.

“Instead of waiting to the point where it’s crunch time and we can’t afford to waste anymore, I think it’s time we just be a little conscious of that beforehand.”

Matt Wolsfeld

“A lot of people end up putting the focus on recycling just because it’s so easy to do, but it’s not as effective as the reduce and reuse side of things. We want to start to make people aware of the amount of waste that’s going out in the first place and the idea that maybe, instead of throwing

something away, somebody else could use it,” Wolsfeld said.

The entire idea goes back to planning for the future, Wolsfeld explained, and taking smaller strides toward sustainable living before those steps grow too massive to make.

“As we start to get to a point

where people are more aware of climate change and general waste and consumption behaviours, we’re starting to realize that the way we’ve operated for decades now has been pretty wasteful because we could afford to be,” Wolsfeld said.

“Instead of waiting to the point where it’s crunch time and we can’t afford to waste anymore, I think it’s time we just be a little conscious of that beforehand.”

Green Give and Go takes place on April 28 at Voyageur Place Courtyard and April 29 at College Quarter Promenade. ■

Opportunity on fields and in class

From Page 6

don’t get to get your tuition paid for while playing, and you see that squandered a lot of time,” said Dale, who is determined to complete his second degree while also playing in the CFL.

“The nice thing for me is the master’s program that I am in is course-based as well as thesis-based, so this first year of my master’s I actually took care of all of the course work. So now as I go out to Ottawa, I can just continue to work on my thesis and research in my free time while playing football.” ■

HUSKIE HIGHLIGHTS: U of S football spring camp kicks off Thursday, May 5 at Griffiths Stadium, under the direction of longtime Huskies head coach Brian Towriss—the longest-serving active university football coach in the country. Spring camp wraps up with an intrasquad game on Sunday, May 8 at 10:30 am.

Saskatchewan Roughriders head coach/general manager Chris Jones and TSN’s CFL analysts Glen Sutor, Jock Climie, Duane Ford and Rod Smith will headline the 16th annual Huskie Football Foundation’s Dog’s Breakfast scholarship fundraiser May 5 at Prairieland Park. Go to huskiesfootballfoundation.com for tickets.

After capturing the CIS championship, Huskies women’s basketball coach Lisa Thomaidis now turns her attention to coaching Canada’s national team, with tryouts starting May 21 in Edmonton. Huskies’ all-Canadian Laura Dally—the Canada West conference most valuable player and U of S female athlete of the year—is expected to be among the players invited to battle for a chance to play in the Summer Games in Rio de Janeiro, Aug. 5-21.

Timing of mental health training right

From Page 8

and Silverstone completed their research, though, they commercialized their product into a training program called ProTraining, available to security forces and agencies.

The U of S is the first such agency outside of Alberta to participate in ProTraining, said Shiffman. To facilitate this type of training, Protective Services partnered with the Clinical Learning Resources Centre (CLRC), located in the Health Sciences Building. The CLRC has a pool of 200 actors, used as standardized patients for health science students to practice their clinical skills on, who will also play the roles for the officer training.

“Instead of having a stomach ulcer, they may have

some sort of mental illness,” explained Shiffman, adding that the benefits of such a partnership extend far beyond Protective Services and the CLRC.

“There may be a lot of other ways that we can utilize this on campus because we’re not unique in having to deal with people suffering from mental illness,” he said. “Our officers will go through those scenarios, and the facilitators will evaluate how those interactions went and give them feedback on how they may improve.”

With instances of mental illnesses increasing globally, Shiffman added that the time is right to enable officers with this caliber of training.

“We’re finding that we’re dealing with people suffering from mental illness more and more these days.” ■

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Open wide in a new wide open space

SEAN CONROY



The College of Dentistry's General Practice Residency (GPR) clinic is getting ready to expand its space to meet the growing need for clinical dentistry practice.

Currently located in the Royal University Hospital, GPR expansion plans include new clinical space in the Health Sciences Building and much needed equipment upgrades to ensure the best training for students and the best care for patients, said Dr. Mohan Teekasingh, the clinic's program director.

Educating students and providing dental care for patients are the clinic's main priorities.

On the student side, Teekasingh explained, the clinic offers a one-year program for post-graduate dental students to experience a multi-disciplinary clinical approach to dentistry, which incorporates elements of medicine, including anatomy and pharmacology.

"We want to use this new clinical space so the residents can develop skills in managing a staff and running multiple chairs," said Teekasingh. "It's going to put them in alignment with other dentistry programs across Canada."

To that end, the expansion of the clinic's space will include an increase in the number of chairs and rooms as well as equipment updates, all meaning the clinic will be able to accommodate more patients.

Teekasingh said the clinic has been valuable in terms of providing professional networking opportunities. Residents who have graduated and started their own practice, or have specialized in a specific area of dentistry, know the unique treatments the clinic offers and use it as a resource for their own practice.

On the patient side, GPR is the only 24/7, on-call dental clinic in the province at which emergency procedures can be performed and supplementary

support for attending dentists can be provided. Operating with two residents, GPR can treat up to 12 patients a day, both children and adults, who are referred by their physician or dentist.

Hospital in-patient referrals, who are seen within 24 hours, are a key driver behind the clinic's expansion, Teekasingh explained.

"For example, if your kid needs a liver or a heart transplant, it's not going to be done until someone says 'yeah, the teeth are fine. Go right ahead.'"

In addition to providing routine procedures such as cleanings or check-ups, the clinic also provides care for unique circumstances. Teekasingh said that includes care for a person who suffers from severe anxiety and requires anesthesia before a procedure, or special care to a patient about to receive chemotherapy.

"We get letters and feedback all the time. Families value the service and I think dentists do, too. When other practices don't know where to turn, they will phone us and ask if we can help out."

Indeed, the teaching and health care services offered through the GPR have undeniable value. However, the current space is no longer sufficient to house a clinic of these capabilities, Teekasingh said. With a college campaign already underway—\$225,000 of the \$475,000 target has already been raised—Teekasingh can hardly wait for the new additions and improvements to the clinic.

"It will boost morale. Having the chance to work in a new facility, with new tools, new equipment—psychologically, there's something to be said for coming in and wanting to go to work. The residents will feel they are providing people with the best possible environment, equipment and care." ■

Sean Conroy is a communications co-ordinator with alumni and development communications.

Coming events

■ Seminars/Lectures

4th Annual PSFaM Symposium

The PRISM Research Centre is hosting the fourth annual PSFaM (Protein Structure Function and Malfunction) Symposium. June 22-24, 5:30 am - 5 pm. 106 Biology Building. Registration is free. Website: <http://cmcf.lightsource.ca/psfam/>.

■ Courses/Workshops

ESL Classes at the Language Centre

April 4-May 30, part-time program, spring term. Classes will cover writing and applied grammar, pronunciation, graduate-level writing, reading or listening skills and spoken English. For more information or to register contact 306-966-4351 or visit ptesl.usask.ca.

Spring Session Multilingual Conversational Language Classes

Classes from April 18 to June 13, 2016:

- French levels 1 to 6: \$215 (GST exempt)
- Spanish levels 1 to 6: \$225.75 (GST included)
- Japanese levels 1 and 2: \$225.75 (GST included)
- Japanese for the Traveller: \$252.00 (manual and GST included)
- German levels 1, 2 and 4: \$225.75 (GST included)
- Italian levels 1, 2 and 4: \$225.75 (GST included)
- Cree level 1 (materials and GST included)

Textbooks and workbooks are extra unless otherwise indicated.

For more information, visit learnlanguages.usask.ca or call 306-966-4355 or 5539.

Realist Methods and Realist Synthesis Training Workshop

June 13-17. This immersive five-day workshop will guide participants through advanced skills in realist methodologies led by Gill Westhorp, an internationally recognized specialist and trainer in realist methodologies. Each day of the workshop will have a different focus and

will include provision of advanced skills lectures/workshops; time for researchers or research teams to work on or develop their own projects; and sessions in which researchers present their work in progress, receive feedback and discuss issues and strategies in realist design and methodologies. University of Saskatchewan registrants: \$500. Students: \$250. External registrants: \$1,000. Team rates available at the rate of 10 per cent off for teams of three to five, and 25 per cent off for teams of six or more. Email yxe.realistworkshop@usask.ca for registration information.

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.

■ Conferences

College of Agriculture and Biore-sources and National Aboriginal Lands Managers Association National Conference

This national conference takes place May 31, June 1 and 2 in Saskatoon SK. To complete an on-line registration form visit: nalma.ca/events/event/national-conference. Deadline is May 20, 2016. Registration Fee: \$150. Lunch provided each day of the conference. Registration fee is waived for current NALMA members and PLMCP graduating students. For more information, contact: Melanie Jacobs-Douglas mjacobs@nalma.ca, 705-657-7660 (toll free: 1-877-234-9813).

■ Miscellany

Joint Convocation

The Saskatoon Theological Union will hold its 15th joint convocation May 6 at Zion Lutheran Church at 7 pm. 30 students will graduate this year—four from the College

of Emmanuel and St. Chad, four from Lutheran Theological Seminary and 22 from St. Andrew's College. The Lutheran Theological Seminary will be conferring an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree to Rev. John Gram. St. Andrew's College will be conferring an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree to Rev. Alison West. The College of Emmanuel and St. Chad will be conferring an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree to The Rt. Rev. David Irving.

Green Give and Go

April 28, 9 am - 4pm (Voyageur Place Courtyard) and April 29, 10 am - 5pm (College Quarter Promenade). The Office of Sustainability and Residence Services is keeping this year's move-out as sustainable as possible. Bring your unwanted items to stations at Voyageur Place and College Quarter and leave them at the free and open item swap. Items accepted include: clean, usable, and donatable household items; non-perishable food for donation to the Saskatoon Food Bank; and recycling, landfill, electronic and hazardous household waste.

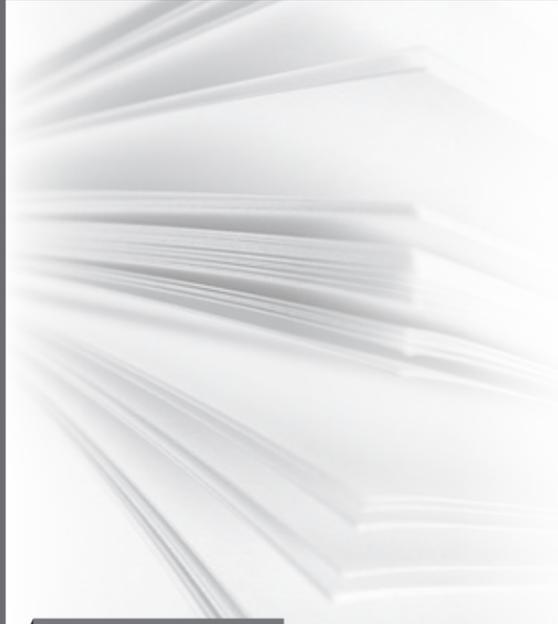
Kids Summer Art Camps

Williams Building, 221 Cumberland Ave. N. Monday-Friday, July 4-August 26, 9:00am-4:00pm. Week-long camps in a fun hands-on learning environment where children experiment with many different art mediums. Structured outdoor activity is part of the daily schedule. Each camp finishes with a group art exhibition for family and friends. Website: <https://ccde.usask.ca/kids-art/aspiring-young-artists-program>.

➤ SUBMIT
Coming events

Next OCN: Friday, May 13
Deadline: Thursday, May 5

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- 2-4 pm** Adult dance and drum competition

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Colin Stonechild



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.

Share your knowledge at ocn@usask.ca



Building capacity

As the co-ordinator of Aboriginal programs and outreach in the College of Agriculture and Bioresources, Candice Pete has played a large part in advancing the college's Aboriginal engagement strategy.

Pete started at the U of S in 2007 as director of the Indigenous Peoples Resource Management (IPRM) certificate program within the college. Specifically designed to train Aboriginal land managers, the program boasts more than 200 alumni during its decade run in the college.

"I'm really proud of the program," said Pete, originally from the Little Pine First Nation. "I thought it was great, in terms of building capacity. It's relevant in terms of taking a look at the legal environment on reserves and comparing it to the provincial crown lands surrounding. I thought that was very unique and positive because there's that relevancy for First Nations land managers across Canada."

In conjunction with the development of the college's Aboriginal engagement strategy, the IPRM curriculum was revamped in 2012, and the program was renamed *Kanawayihetaytan Askiy* (Cree for "Let us take care of the land"). Pete was especially involved in this process, which consisted of extensive consultation with colleagues all over campus, as well as from First Nations communities across the province. That consultative knack comes easily to Pete, who has a master's degree in public administration and extensive management and policy experience with Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada.

"We asked what kind of support services we should have in place so that students have a positive post-secondary experience," she said. "We also asked about how to incorporate traditional knowledge and from there, we collected a lot of wonderful feedback."

Pete acknowledged that this feedback—especially from the Aboriginal communities served by land managers—played a vital role in shaping the program.

"It's critical. If we want the post-secondary to be positive, it has to be relevant so that people are interested in the program itself."

Pete is also working on two new diploma programs for the college, currently in the approval process—Aboriginal resource management and Aboriginal lands and governance. Given the relevancy of both subjects, if approved, she hopes they will attract a variety of potential students—"anyone that's interested in Aboriginal lands and resources." ■

