



THE LONG AND WINDING ROAD

The path towards convocation is different for every single student at the University of Saskatchewan; that is certainly true for Katya Khartova, Michelle Martin and Anton Siaotong (pictured left to right). With a final few steps across the stage at convocation, each will receive their hard-earned degree and finish a rewarding, and challenging, journey to become graduates of the U of S. Read their stories on Pages 6 and 7.

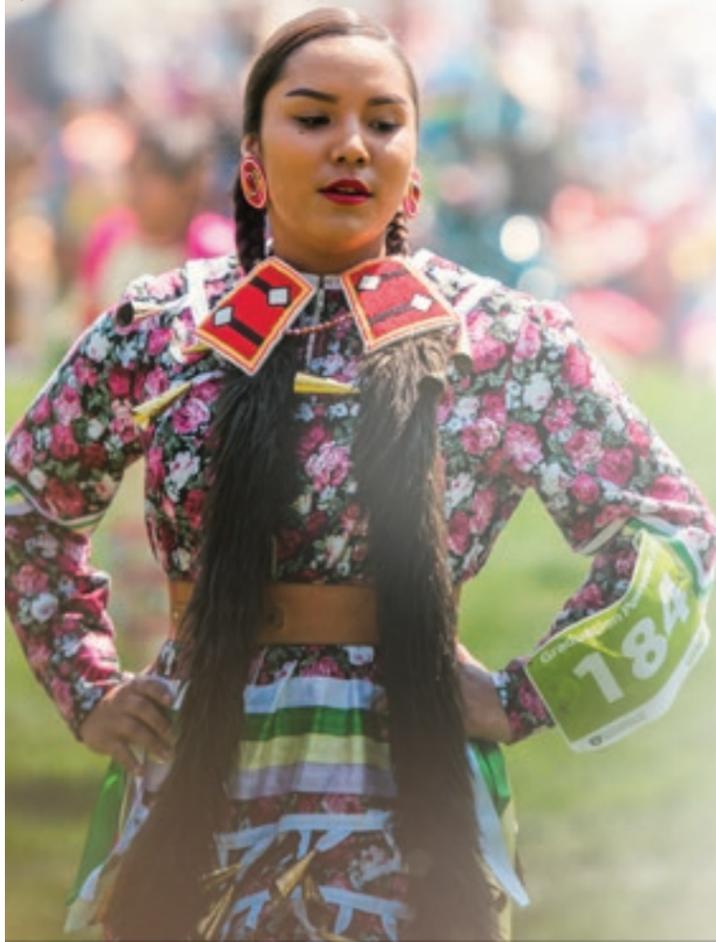


DAVID STOBBE

Tradition of cultural celebration continues

Graduation Powwow now campus community centerpiece

LESLEY PORTER



As with most traditions, the university’s first powwow started with a conversation. Now an annual event attended by thousands, it has a long, storied history dating back nearly 30 years.

Rewind to fall 1987, when Tyrone Tootoosis was chatting with some fellow students about the absence of Aboriginal culture at the U of S.

“We were talking about the lack of a First Nations presence on campus,” recalled Tootoosis, who also served as a member of the Indigenous Students’ Council. Prior to this, he was involved in organizing other social ceremonies, so “it was a given that I would be asked by the students to chair and co-ordinate the powwow committee that was struck up and composed of First Nation and Métis students.”

That conversation was enough to get the ball rolling. Tootoosis, a group leader for Great Plains, a First Nations

dance company, tapped into his connections and started planning.

“I thought, perhaps, the singers and dancers would be willing to come and dance and sing at the inaugural event since we had absolutely no money to work with,” he said. From that point, other details started to come together. A few drum groups and about 50 to 60 dancers agreed to show up, and the first grand entry ceremony was led by Cree Elder Henry Beaudry, a veteran of the Second World War as well as a former prisoner of war.

Some aspects of organizing the powwow were challenging, Tootoosis explained. He had to get approval for everything—from using the Bowl, to finding, transporting and setting up tipis, to co-ordinating logistical details such as the sound system, parking and change rooms for the dancers. He even had to apply for a special permit to dig

a small hole in the ground and make a ceremonial fire. Along with trying to accommodate the traditional protocol, the organizers also had to comply with campus regulations and policies—which was not always easy, admitted Tootoosis.

It was all worth it, though, when in the spring of 1988, the first powwow was held in the Bowl. “Being part of the process was a lot of fun as it took several months of volunteer work by many students,” he said.

That experience also came in handy a year later when a new group of volunteers was organizing the next powwow. Tootoosis kept track of the work involved and the necessary protocols that would have to be followed by the organizing committee. Those notes became, “in essence, a small manual for incoming students to read if they were going to help organize

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INSIDE



POINTED ATTACK 3



SICK SALAMANDERS 4

Born in the USA

Legal historian joins College of Law as visiting chair in human rights

SARAH TREFIK

Have you ever wanted to know more about the American Civil War? Or maybe whether or not Ted Cruz is a natural born citizen of the United States? Ever wondered about who owns Barry Bonds' 73rd home run ball? If so, Paul Finkelman is the one to talk to. And until at least the end of 2016, he can be found at the U of S College of Law.

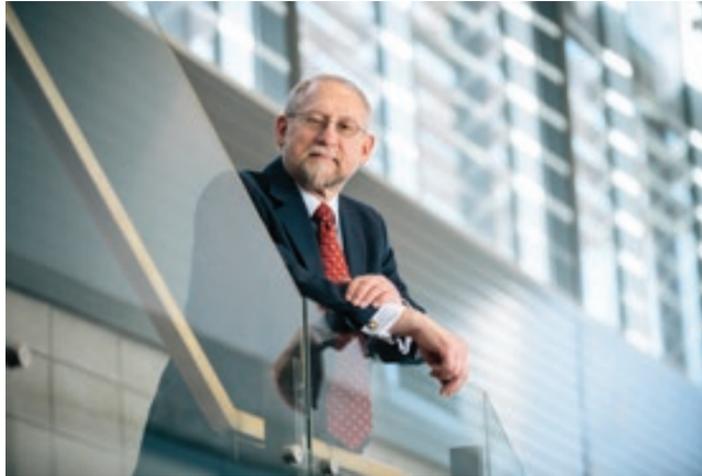
Ranked as the fifth most cited legal historian by Brian Leiter's Law School Rankings, Finkelman is the author of more than 200 scholarly articles and more than 40 books. His writing has appeared in *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *USA Today* and *The Huffington Post*, and he has been cited four times by the United States Supreme Court.

So what drew him to the University of Saskatchewan to take up the Ariel Sallows Chair in Human Rights?

"The Ariel Sallows Chair is a well-known chair that has been held by many important scholars and activists," Finkelman explained. "Most of my scholarship has been on issues of race, ethnicity, religious freedom, slavery and human dignity, so the goals of the chair align perfectly with my own interests and scholarship."

Growing up about 30 kilometres south of the Canadian border and often visiting Canadian relatives also added to Finkelman's motivation to teach and research up north.

"This is an opportunity to learn from being in Canada, and enrich my own understanding of law and its role in democratic culture," said Finkelman. "Canada is very much like the



Paul Finkelman, Ariel Sallows Chair in Human Rights

DAVID STOBBE

U.S., but also very different. I am particularly interested in learning how Canada balanced freedom of speech and freedom of religion in a democratic political culture within its Charter of Rights—something quite different from what the U.S. has."

One of the main differences between the U.S. and Canada, he was told, would be the weather. "The first thing I did was buy a warmer pair of gloves," he said with a laugh.

Lucky for Finkelman, it was a mild winter in Saskatoon. He was more surprised by the complexity of the university's underground walkways. "Having been to the U of S before, I knew the campus was impressive and at the same time, compact enough to be user friendly. On the other hand, I found, and still find, the tunnel system to be a challenge," he said with a chuckle.

Since arriving at the College of Law, Finkelman has been full-steam ahead, completing a revision of his book *Dred Scott*

v. Sandford: A Brief History, and a fifth edition of his casebook *American Legal History*. The

rest of his time will be devoted to writing a book on the history of how the U.S. Supreme Court adjudicated cases involving slavery, creating a legal history of Jews in the U.S. and writing an article on the way the early American Supreme Court treated American Indians.

In September, Finkelman will host a conference in honour of the Honourable Irwin Cotler, PC, entitled "Human Rights Law in the Twenty-First Century." The event will cover a variety of issues that are of interest to the international human rights community including rights of the disabled, human trafficking, the conditions of prisons and how education is a human rights issue.

With each project, article and conference, Finkelman hopes he can help enhance the reputation of the College of Law.

"This is a terrific university with an important law school. But it is less well known than it should be," he observed. "The faculty has much to offer and the students here will make a significant impact on the world. The college has honoured me by giving me this chair, and so I want to honour the college by helping the larger world of legal academics and lawyers understand just how good the U of S College of Law really is." ■

Sarah Trefiak is a communications and alumni relations officer in the College of Law.

Academic achievement front and centre

From Page 2

future U of S powwows."

As the event has grown, the planning and organizational aspect has gotten a bit easier—in no small part to the work of people on campus to ensure its success.

"During the last two years I've been here, we've worked really hard to have more campus buy-in in the organization of the powwow," said Graeme Joseph, team leader for First Nations, Métis and Inuit student success with the Aboriginal Students' Centre. "It's a very large event and complex in nature, so we really rely on our colleagues across the institution in order to host it."



Joseph

Joseph added that the importance of the event has grown from a celebration of culture to one of academic achievement.

"We have Aboriginal high

school and university students who are graduating and what we want to do is ensure we celebrate their success and show people that these students are going to be leaders—not only within their own communities, but across the city and across Saskatchewan."

Almost three decades after that initial conversation on campus, Tootoosis is fortunate enough to continue working alongside many First Nations and Métis staff and students at the U of S.

"It feels good knowing that the university continues to support the powwow along with the hundreds of First Nations and Métis students who have worked tirelessly every year to make it possible." ■

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Fight club on campus

Drama class teaches ins and outs of fighting on stage

LESLEY PORTER

In a way, Iain Rose encourages his students to pick fights with one another.

Rose teaches a second-year stage combat class in the Department of Drama, giving students a taste of what they may have to do if they are cast in a play where some type of fight or physical combat is required.

But there is more to it than wild swinging and clanging weapons. Rose teaches the methodologies of combat relative to its place in history, as well as the proper choreography involved, to make a fight scene look realistic on stage.

“Our purpose is to help the actor make sense of their character and to facilitate the action so that the story is told seamlessly,” said Rose, who has been teaching the class since 2001. “Hopefully there will be an exciting fight as well.”

It was an interest in martial arts that roped him into the world of theatrical combat. After he finished high school, he promptly started taking martial



Iain Rose teaches a second-year stage combat class in the Department of Drama.

LESLEY PORTER

arts classes. He started with karate and a Chinese martial art called wushu, which helped him understand the esthetics of the practice. “It’s very showy in its presentation,” said Rose, who is also the technical director in the department. “Through doing that I was able to

combat artists. The ad, which featured “a swashbuckling gentleman with a musketeer hat holding a cloak and a rapier and a dagger,” was promoting a stage combat workshop. He attended, finding another outlet for his extensive martial arts experience. Since then, he has gone on to do more training with FDC and become a certified instructor of unarmed combat, single sword and quarterstaff, a type of European pole weapon. He teaches the first two styles in his class, and at the end of the term each student performs these techniques in front of a live audience.

Rose focuses on European-region martial arts in the class—though not as well-known as its Asian counterpart, it carries the same legitimacy

and foundation, particularly in sword combat.

“Before gunpowder became mainstream and projectile

“ Our purpose is to help the actor make sense of their character and to facilitate the action so that the story is told seamlessly.

Iain Rose

sidearms made edged weapons almost obsolete, the sword was king,” he said. “Whoever had the better sword technology, would have the better edge. And whoever had the better weapons would dominate the battlefield.”

Students can practice with replica swords, many of which Rose made himself or had made

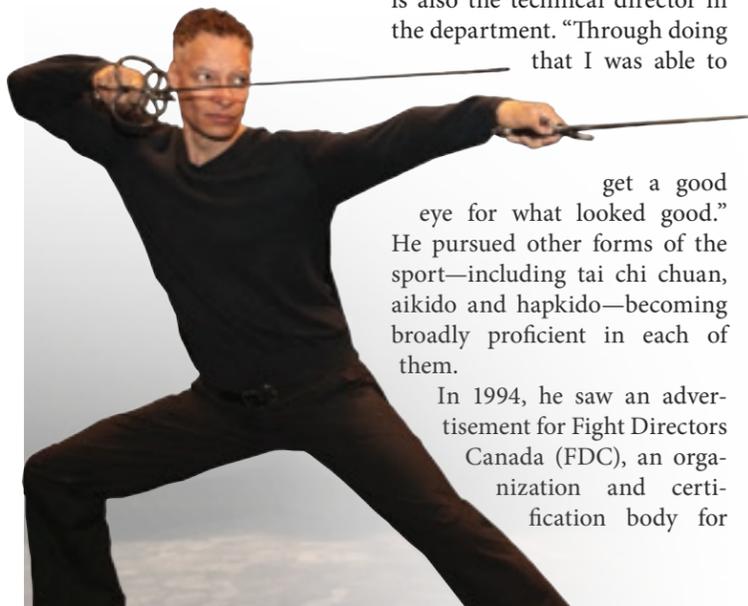
for the class. These range from the xiphos, a short, thrusting sword popular in ancient Greece, to the rapier, a long, elegant piercing sword from 16th century Italy, to variations of fencing swords used by competitors in the sport.

The art of putting on a compelling fight has come a long way, Rose explained. Before stage combat was taught as a useful skill, stage directors would bring in a fencing instructor or boxing coach to teach the dynamics of fighting, or seek out audience members with fighting experience. “Or worse,” he recalled, “the director—who would have no training in martial combat—would try to choreograph a fight, usually with questionable consequences.”

So while there is an urge to be exceedingly violent in a fight, that is simply not how it is done in a dramatic play scene. He used two actors in a sword fight as example of maintaining a safe distance from each other to make the scene look realistic.

“If you’re within distance, then I can hit you. If you’re maintaining a safe distance, even if I make a mistake, I’m never going to hit you,” he said. “Safe distance is determined by correct and proper footwork. This is why it takes a lot of rehearsal to be able to discipline your feet to be able to keep that consistent, safe distance.”

Additionally, many plays that have fights in them often lack the choreography needed to make it look realistic. “Where people like myself come in is, we fill in that blank: ‘Ok, how do we do it to meet that end and carry the story on?’” ■



get a good eye for what looked good.” He pursued other forms of the sport—including tai chi chuan, aikido and hapkido—becoming broadly proficient in each of them.

In 1994, he saw an advertisement for Fight Directors Canada (FDC), an organization and certification body for

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Kristin Bogdan

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Saving salamanders and newts

Responsible ownership key to protecting biodiversity

MICHAEL ROBIN

The fate of the world's richest biodiversity of salamanders and newts is in the hands of pet owners across North America, said Natacha Hogan, an environmental toxicologist specializing in amphibians at the University of Saskatchewan.

At issue is salamander chytrid disease, caused by a fungus that infects both salamanders and newts with near total lethality. The fungus, known as B.sal, infects the skin, causing wart-like lesions. As the disease progresses, the animal stops eating, becomes lethargic, loses control of its body movements and eventually dies.

Originally from Asia, the disease has completely wiped out wild populations where it has appeared in Europe and the U.K., said Hogan.

"It's basically the pet trade," she said. "It's when you start moving salamanders; this is what this spread has been attributed to. There have been millions of salamanders imported—how many kids own fire belly newts from a pet store?"

While the fungus has not yet been spotted in Canada, she said the U.S. has already instituted strict regulations on trade in salamanders and newts.

The Canadian Wildlife Health Cooperative (CWHC) is leading efforts to raise the alarm, urging immediate action. The group compares the threat to a similar invasive fungal disease that all but wiped out entire species of frogs in South and Central America, and white nose disease, which has killed



entire colonies of bats—millions of animals—across North America, including Canada.

While Canada has only two species of newt—both in Ontario—salamanders are wide spread, Hogan said, with about 15 species across the country. Some of these have a small geographic range, but others, such as the two species of tiger salamander found in Saskatchewan, can be found right across the Prairie provinces.

“ Amphibians are key components within the food web. A decline or elimination of even one species will have some impact, a trickle-down effect on other species within that food web.

Natacha Hogan

The rest of North America is even more richly endowed.

"The U.S. has among the greatest biodiversity of amphibians in the world, so this is also true of salamanders and newts," Hogan said.

The CWHC emphasizes first line of defense starts at home to help safeguard this rich natural

heritage, and offers online resources for both pet owners and scientists.

"If you must keep salamanders or newts as pets, ensure they are from locations where (the fungus) is not present and only buy from reputable suppliers," the group urged in a release. "Make sure any water or cage wastes are properly disinfected with bleach before discarding them. Always seek appropriate veterinary care for sick pet salamanders and newts."

Bleach is the disinfectant of choice for biologists in the field and lab, explained Hogan. She did field work on a similar fungal disease in native frogs while at the University of Prince Edward Island. Whenever she and her colleagues left one pond to go to another, all their gear—including gloves, boots and sampling equipment—got doused in a

10 per cent bleach solution. They even sprayed down the tires of their vehicles as they were leaving to avoid bringing any

trace of contaminated soil to the next pond.

"The fungus makes these little zoospores that can even swim on their own a short distance," she explained. "They can live in water, in mud, so movement of those materials as you go from one wetland to another and you haven't cleaned your boots..."



Natacha Hogan

MICHAEL ROBIN

Stepping closer to a university-wide vision

JENNIFER ROBERTSON

The university is one step closer to a new vision, mission and values statement, with a first draft scheduled for release by mid-June.

"We've been hard at work since February, meeting with close to 1,500 people internal and external to the university, and reviewing over 4,000 responses to two separate surveys," said visioning committee co-chair, Liz Harrison. "Based on the information collected through consultation, and reviewing several institutional documents, the committee has started to put pen to paper to attempt to capture the essence of what we are hearing and reading."

Harrison and her co-chair, Brent Cotter, indicated some of the prominent themes identified in consultations highlight

the importance of the university's relationship with the Indigenous community, remaining grounded in our over 100 year history, ensuring we are recognized for making an impact locally and globally in areas of relevance to the needs and aspirations of the people of Saskatchewan, and the importance of fostering a supportive teaching and learning environment. Many of those with whom the committee has met are also challenging the committee to be bold in the statements that capture our university's distinctiveness.

"Our greatest challenge will be condensing all the valuable information collected into a two-page statement about the university today and in the future that is accurate, meaningful and inspirational," said

Cotter. "At the end of the day, we hope most, if not all, of our students, faculty and staff can see themselves represented in this document in some way."

Once the draft is released in mid-June, the visioning committee will continue to consult and invite feedback to ensure the final version is representative of the university and its aspirations. In October, the committee will present a document to all three governing bodies—University Council, Board of Governors and University Senate—for final approval.

For more information, and to read the draft once released, please visit usask.ca/ourvision. ■

Jennifer Robertson
is a special projects officer
with the Office of the
University Secretary.



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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Designers: Brian Kachur, Pierre Wilkinson

Editorial Advisory Board: Rajat Chakravarty, Patrick Hayes, Fiona Haynes, Sandra Ribeiro, Sharon Scott, Stephen Urquhart, David York



ISSN: 1195-7654 PUBLICATIONS MAIL AGREEMENT NO. 40065156

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Building better relationships

Technology to improve communication with students and alumni

✍ KRIS FOSTER

Data will be the difference in how the university interacts with its prospective students, current students and graduates with the introduction of a new Relationship Management System (RMS).

With the phased-in implementation of the RMS—think standard of practice, strategy and technology used to manage constituent interactions and data—how the university communicates with current and future students, alumni and donors will become more effective than ever, said Patti McDougall, vice-provost, teaching and learning.

“This is a tool that opens the possibility for better communication and relationship development through the entire lifecycle, from prospective student to alumni,” said McDougall.

Designed specifically for post-secondary institutions, the new system consists of three applications and will be implemented in three stages: recruitment, student retention and success, and a module dedicated to university alumni and donors.

Information collected—ranging from general personal and academic information to details about services used, preferences, and how, when and by whom an individual was

contacted—will help provide complete individual pictures for front-line staff, McDougall explained, adding that “privacy of information is of utmost importance and there will be many protocols around who has access.”

While this sort of information is collected in pockets across campus, the proposed RMS will gather and co-ordinate this information in one centralized system, reducing reliance on duplicate systems



McDougall

across campus that each require significant resources—time and money—to operate.

Additionally, McDougall continued, because of the fragmented nature in how data is currently compiled and stored, data is duplicated, sometimes incorrect or out of date, and not easily accessible to those who require it in a timely manner.

In contrast, RMS will eliminate those issues and create a common practice in the way the university—from small departments to major colleges—collects, stores, shares and uses this valuable relationship-building information.

“Students entering a relationship with a post-secondary education institute have expectations on what we deliver and how we interact with them; that’s driven by technology,” said McDougall.

RMS, McDougall continued, will allow for “timely, personalized and relevant information that will help us develop relationships. People don’t want to come to a place where they are just a number.”

McDougall said that because of this detailed information, university employees

will be better able to manage the needs of our prospects, students and graduates using well-defined steps and processes with clear communications supporting each step.

“From a student perspective, we will offer seamless inter-

“ This is a tool that opens the possibility for better communication and relationship development through the entire lifecycle, from prospective student to alumni.

Patti McDougall

actions no matter where they are and how we met them,” she said. “We will be able to put specific information into the system and that will be available to our staff to help build relationships.”

Input from front-line staff will be as important as the system itself, McDougall continued, and training to use the system will determine the project’s success. “If we don’t have staff who are comfortable with the system, we won’t reach the goals of the project,” she said.

The first phase of the system implementation, focused on recruitment, will begin this spring with a price tag of \$1.1 million. The application covering alumni, donors and friends of the university, will be the second phase and will proceed—pending board approval—in late-2017, with the final module, on student success and retention, slated for early 2018. The expected cost for the entire system is \$3.6 million.

McDougall said this is a campus-wide project involving more than 100 people from colleges, schools and admin units serving on an advisory committee. The cost, both in terms of money and time, she continued, will be well worth it.

“Universities have been slow to adapt processes and communication practices to meet the changing expectations of potential students,” she said. “Post-secondary education is competitive and institutions that can deliver timely, personalized and relevant information have the opportunity to differentiate themselves from their competition by fostering deeper and more mutually beneficial relationships.” ■



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2016 Spring Convocation

The word convocation arises from the Latin *con* meaning together and *vocare* meaning to call. The convocation ceremony is a calling together of new graduates.

The university's Spring Convocation will take place May 30-June 2. In addition to awarding thousands of degrees to students, a number of honorary degrees and awards will be presented to deserving individuals.

Home away from home

Rajat Nag to receive honorary degree

JAMES SHEWAGA



Nag

Rajat Nag didn't really know what he was in for when he came to the University of Saskatchewan back in the summer of '69. But with apologies to Canadian rock icon Bryan Adams, it turned out to be some of the best days of his life.

From southern Asia to southern Saskatchewan, moving from a major metropolitan megacity in densely-populated Delhi to the slower pace of Prairie life in Saskatoon proved quite the culture shock. The stark change in climate from sub-tropical India to experiencing snow for the first time was also an eye-opener for Nag. But the biting chill of his first -40 Celsius winter was quickly tempered by the warm welcome he received on campus from new friends

and faculty, many of whom he remains close with to this day.

"It was undoubtedly a big change and a culture shock, but perhaps because I was young (not even 21), all those experiences of change were exciting and exhilarating," said Nag, who will be the first of six individuals to receive honorary degrees from the U of S during this year's Spring Convocation. "It was fun. I still recall my wonder at the first snowfall I experienced and my inability to comprehend what -40 degree cold really meant, until my ears and nose almost froze over.

"I also found to my great delight that the usual Prairies hospitality is even more generous in the winter. Whenever my car broke down—and it broke down often in the sub-freezing temperatures—I was most touched at how soon a Good Samaritan would stop to help and even invite me to sit in his car to warm myself while he tried to fix mine. Amazing hospitality."

Nag went on to earn a pair of graduate degrees at the U of S—Master of Science and Master of

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Katya Khartova

DAVID STOBBE

Hitting all the right notes

JAMES SHEWAGA

Saskatoon soprano Katya Khartova has been proud to sing *O Canada* at University of Saskatchewan convocation ceremonies for the past two years.

But this year, it will be her turn to be serenaded with the national anthem when she steps on stage and graduates with a Bachelor of Music from the U of S. It will be a memorable moment for Khartova and something she could have only dreamed about, growing up back in Ukraine.

"It's very personal to me," said Khartova, who became a

Canadian citizen five years ago. "Every time I have to sing 'Our home and native land' I feel a part of that because Canada is a country that welcomes immigrants and I am one of them and I hope to have my own contributions to pass on to other generations."

The 27-year-old Khartova hopes to be a part of the next generation of Canadian singing sensations after winning back-to-back provincial music festival competitions, posting the highest grade (88 per cent)

earned in vocal studies in the past six years at the U of S, and serving as the featured soloist in the university's Music Theatre Ensemble.

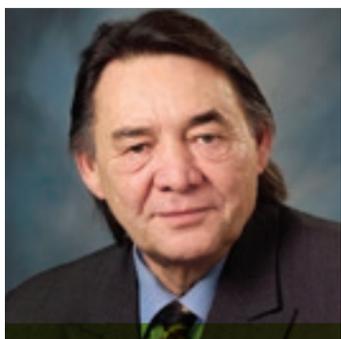
"There is no question that Katya Khartova ranks among the very most talented singers with whom I have worked in my 22 years at the U of S," said Garry Gable, associate professor in the Department of Music and the director of the Music Theatre Ensemble.

"She has the potential to do well in the singing world, but it is a very competitive world, especially for sopranos. Much rides on good fortune and hard work. Katya will have to continue to study for years to come to be successful. Her talent, dedication and work to this point have given her a very strong advantage."

Another major advantage for Khartova was moving from the Ukraine to Canada at the age of 18 with her family—mother Marina, father Henry and brother Sergei—in search of a better life that they have found in Saskatchewan. Khartova didn't speak English when she first arrived in the small town of Drake, but worked hard to master the language with the help of her teachers, before moving on to work full-time in Saskatoon to save money for tuition. After a year of arts courses, she began music studies at the age of 21, having had no formal training.

"Canada has given me things that I could never even dream of back in Ukraine and pursuing music would not have been possible," she said. "In countries like the Ukraine, honestly nobody would have even looked at me, I would have been too old to even start. And here people said if that is what you want to do, we will develop you as much as we can."

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RAY AHENAKEW
Honorary Doctor of Laws

The former president of the Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies, Ray Ahenakew has spent a lifetime building business opportunities to improve the lives of First Nations people. The 73-year-old member of Ahtahkakoop Cree Nation led the Meadow Lake Tribal Council team that pioneered self-government negotiations with the federal government. A former chair of the Saskatchewan Indian Gaming Authority, he received the Saskatchewan Order of Merit and was named one of the province's most influential people by *Sask Business* magazine. He will receive an Honorary Doctor of Laws on June 1.



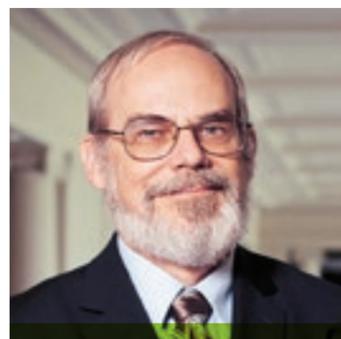
MIKE BABCOCK
Honorary Doctor of Laws

Mike Babcock is the one of the most successful coaches in hockey history and the only one to win a Stanley Cup, world championship and Olympic gold. The 53-year-old coach of the Toronto Maple Leafs, who guided the Detroit Red Wings to the Stanley Cup in 2008 and has coached in more than 1,000 NHL games, led Canada to back-to-back Olympic gold medals in 2010 and 2014. A Saskatoon native and former member of the University of Saskatchewan Huskies hockey team, Babcock supports several charitable causes and will be awarded an honorary Doctor of Laws on June 2.



CINDY BLACKSTOCK
Honorary Doctor of Laws

Cindy Blackstock will be celebrated as a champion of children's rights in First Nations communities when she is awarded an Honorary Doctor of Laws by the University of Saskatchewan on June 2. Blackstock led an epic decade-long legal campaign that culminated in a Canadian Human Rights tribunal decision in January forcing the federal government to provide equal funding for First Nations child and family services. A member of Gitksan Nation in B.C., Blackstock is the executive director of the First Nations Child and Family Caring Society of Canada and is an associate professor at the University of Alberta.



ERIC GRIMSON
Honorary Doctor of Science

Originally from Estevan, Eric Grimson has spent more than 30 years teaching at the prestigious Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), widely regarded as the top technical institute in the world. The 63-year-old graduate of the University of Regina went on to earn his PhD in mathematics at MIT in 1980, has taught more than 11,000 MIT graduates over the past three decades and has instructed nearly a million students worldwide through online courses. Grimson, who has also served as chancellor of MIT, will be awarded an Honorary Doctor of Science from the University of Saskatchewan on May 31.



KEITH MARTELL
Honorary Doctor of Laws

A member of Saskatchewan's Waterhen Lake First Nation, Keith Martell was one of the founders of the First Nations Bank of Canada, which holds half a billion dollars in assets and has 80 per cent Aboriginal ownership. A graduate of the University of Saskatchewan's commerce program in 1985, Martell spent 10 years with the chartered accounting firm KPMG and also worked with the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations. Named one of Canada's 'Top 40 Under 40' by *The Globe and Mail's Report on Business* in 2001, Martell will be awarded an Honorary Doctor of Laws on June 1.

Martin travels long road to convocation

✍ JAMES SHEWAGA

There may be nobody more proud to step on stage at TCU Place this month than Michelle Martin.

Especially when you consider that just a few years ago, doctors told her that she may never walk again.

But Martin never let being diagnosed with multiple sclerosis define her. After tentatively taking her first few steps, the 48-year-old former single mother was more determined than ever to complete a journey that has been 30 years in the making, and will finish at the University of Saskatchewan Spring Convocation ceremonies. “I will probably be the proudest one on stage, because I never, ever, thought it would happen,”

said Martin, who will graduate with a Bachelor of Arts in sociology. “MS alone is a big struggle because the fatigue kills you. So for me, university was something that I didn’t think I was going to finish and many times I wanted to give up. But I had such strong support.”

Battling MS was one of the many roadblocks that she has navigated on her path in life. Born of Métis heritage in the small town of St. Benedict, 110 kilometres northeast of Saskatoon, Martin dropped out of high school in 1986, the year she became pregnant with her son Kyle. She finished Grade 12 in Saskatoon in a program designed for single mothers and then spent the next 15 years

working as a hairdresser and raising her son and her daughter Mikayla on her own.

Determined to go back to school one day, Martin did just that in 2001 when she attended St. Peter’s College for two years as a mature student. But juggling school, work and parenting proved to be overwhelming.

“I was a single mom at the time and it was just too hard to keep up with school and with two young children and having to work at the same time,” said Martin. “So I left school, but I always said that when my kids were grown, I would go back. So I did!”

But life had another

See *Sociology*, Page 8



Michelle Martin

DAVID STOBBE



Anton Siatong

DAVID STOBBE

Finding his true calling at the U of S

✍ JAMES SHEWAGA

Anton Siatong came halfway around the world to find his calling in Canada.

The international student from the Philippines will graduate with his second University of Saskatchewan degree when he is awarded a Bachelor of Education at the Spring Convocation ceremonies at TCU Place next week.

“The Canadian experience made me achieve my dream,” said Siatong. “I would not have fulfilled it if I had stayed in the Philippines.”

After travelling from the Far East to study science and engineering in Saskatchewan, Siatong’s academic journey

turned in a whole new direction when he went from cultivating new fields of research to cultivating young minds.

A 45-year-old former assistant professor at the University of the Philippines, Siatong secured a scholarship to the U of S where he earned a master’s degree, served as a sessional lecturer and pursued his PhD. But more than halfway through his PhD in bioprocessing engineering, he changed course completely to pursue his passion to teach schoolchildren.

“Teaching math and music is my passion and that’s the explanation for leaving my PhD,” said Siatong, a former

U of S Dean’s Scholarship researcher who will graduate with an impressive 86.08 per cent cumulative average in his education courses.

“A lot of people wondered why I had to leave my PhD after four years of doing it ... but I just felt that I am more called towards teaching in the younger years in elementary and high school, so that I can affect them more. I am a teacher at heart.”

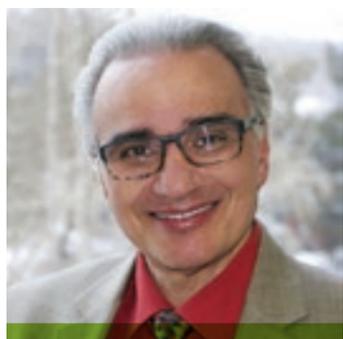
Working as a private music teacher on the side to help pay for tuition, Siatong knew he had made the right decision during his internship at St. Peter

See *Teaching*, Page 8



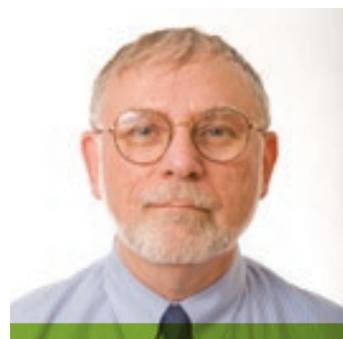
HUGO COTA-SANCHEZ
Master Teacher Award

Hugo Cota-Sanchez, associate professor, has earned a reputation as one of our university’s most esteemed teacher-scholars since joining the Department of Biology in 2000. Cota-Sanchez employs interactive and engaging teaching methods and continually assesses and adjusts his teaching, allowing him to genuinely connect with students. Don’t be surprised to see him in a suit made of burlap to demonstrate the versatility of plants, or to go on a “super-market safari” to learn how various foods and cosmetic products are connected to plants. As curator of the W.P. Fraser Herbarium, Cota-Sanchez leads outreach initiatives that introduce students to the world of botany.



JOSEPH GARCEA
Award for Distinction in Outreach and Public Service

For nearly three decades, Joseph Garcea, associate professor, Department of Political Studies, has contributed to the university’s outreach mission. A trusted source of professional opinion on governance and political matters, Garcea has given over 500 interviews and commentaries to media. Some of his most significant contributions to community engagement have come through his commitment to the Career Internship Program, which provides students opportunities to work with governmental or community-based agencies. Garcea has contributed to improve governance and public management through work for provincial commissions and task forces.



JOHN GIESY
Distinguished Researcher Award

John Giesy, Canada Research Chair in Environmental Toxicology, has devoted his life to researching some of the most ubiquitous and dangerous chemicals found in the environment. His work has greatly improved the health of our planet, as well as the people and wildlife living on it. Giesy is one of the world’s most prominent environmental toxicologists and has authored more than 1,000 peer-reviewed publications and is the most cited author in the world in the combined fields of ecology and environmental science. Also a highly regarded teacher and mentor, Giesy has trained hundreds of students, many of whom are now scientific leaders.



VIVIAN RAMSDEN
Award for Distinction in Community Engaged Teaching and Scholarship

Vivian Ramsden, professor, College of Medicine, is recognized within the North American health research community as one of the foremost champions of community-based participatory research. Ramsden strives for inclusivity in the majority of her research projects. Many routinely participate in her research, and are often cited as authors. Colleagues, students and community partners note her consistency of practice, ethics, willingness to mentor, and the respect the scholarly community and public have for her work. Her principles of engagement have resulted in partnerships around the world.



CANDACE WASACASE-LAFFERTY
President’s Service Award

Since arriving at the University of Saskatchewan 15 years ago, Candace Wasacase-Lafferty has been a dedicated team player, a role model for colleagues, a cultural leader and an advocate for students. As director of Aboriginal initiatives, Wasacase-Lafferty simply works to make the U of S the best place it can be for Aboriginal people and their communities. But simple work, it is not. She is a bridge between the university and Aboriginal communities throughout Saskatchewan and beyond. With optimism, creativity and dedication, Wasacase-Lafferty balances competing interests and brings communities together to achieve goals around Indigenous education and engagement.



Taking centre stage

From Page 6

Her rapid development will be on full display next year when she serves as the featured soprano soloist in the Saskatoon Symphony Orchestra's production of *The Golden Harvest* by composer Larysa Kuzmenko, which celebrates the 125th anniversary of immigration of Ukrainians to Canada.

"I am very excited to take part," said Khartova. "Next year will also be 10 years since

my immigration to Canada, so it's big for me, too. When I first came here, I couldn't have even dreamed about it, to be on the stage at TCU Place ... and now I will be on the stage myself."

The next stage in Khartova's development will be pursuing her master's degree, likely elsewhere in Canada or overseas in Europe, as she works towards her dream of becoming an opera singer.

"I will probably go take (a master's) in a different city, mainly because that is what the

business requires," she said. "They like to see that you have studied with different people and have had different kinds of experiences."

"But I want to find a teacher that I can connect with just as good as I have connected with my teachers here at the U of S. I'm having a very hard time leaving them because they became my second parents. They were more than professors; they were so supportive on all levels. I will miss them all." ■

Sociology student supported by campus community

From Page 7

major challenge ahead of her before coming to campus. First diagnosed with MS in the 1990s, Martin's condition took a turn for the worse, and she was put on permanent disability in 2012. But with a commitment to improving her health, and plenty of grit and determination, she worked her way out of the wheelchair and back onto her feet again.

"I had been confined to a wheelchair and was told that I would never do a lot of things again, but I don't live by that word 'never,'" said Martin, who enrolled at U of S in 2014, the same year she married her husband Isaac. "I had walking



aids when I first came back and I had lots of support from friends driving me. But now I am fully functional and walking around campus on my own ... I got myself healthy and finished my

degree."

Next week, Martin will graduate with the highest mark (95 per cent) in her Sociology 347 class and will be among the first students to earn a certificate in

the new criminology and addictions program at the U of S. Her determination and dedication has served as an inspiration on campus.

"I am extremely proud of Michelle and how much I have seen her grow in this past year academically, personally and professionally," said U of S sociology professor Colleen Dell, who was Martin's practicum placement supervisor in the always-popular therapy dogs research program. "She has a real 'go get it' attitude and is very much open to learning. I am sure that is what has enabled her to finish her degree: an innate drive and sense of curiosity. And of course, as a sociologist, a

commitment to, and a recognition of, her own contributing role in our community."

On campus at the U of S, Martin has found a whole community behind her, with the university's commitment to Aboriginal achievement a part of the support system that has helped her reach her goal of graduating.

"I think no matter what culture you are from, we all need help along the way," said Martin. "I am very proud of myself for doing it because I think it sets the stage for a lot of my First Nations and Métis brothers and sisters, that if we really do put our mind to something, you can accomplish it." ■

Teaching a passion and mission for Siaotong

From Page 7

School in Saskatoon last fall and has relished returning to the classroom this spring as a substitute teacher. A devout Catholic who has conducted choirs since arriving in Saskatoon back in 2003, Siaotong has felt right at home working in the Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools division.

"My faith is very much a part of my life," said Siaotong, who currently sings with the Saskatoon Men's Chorus and

conducts both the St. Thomas More choir and the Saskatoon Filipino choir. "My dad emphasized education and my mom emphasized faith, and the combination of such is my reason for being in the Catholic school division right now."

Like most of the members of his graduating class, Siaotong is now searching for full-time work as a teacher and is unsure of his next step and whether it involves securing his Canadian citizenship or returning home to the Philippines. But one thing

he knows for sure is that his future lies in the classroom.

"I think my mission is to be able to teach and that is why I pursued the Bachelor of Education," said Siaotong. "I really want to teach math and music ... and I am enjoying being a substitute teacher where I go around to different schools. I don't know if I am called to be in a certain country, but I know that I am called to be a teacher of math and music. And wherever I am most needed, there I will be." ■



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UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN
College of Education
USASK.CA/EDUCATION



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Fee: \$3,695 includes GST, return flight to Churchill, shared accommodations, local travel, Tundra Buggy®, meals, and educational lectures. A 10% deposit is required to secure your spot. **Full fee is due July 31, 2016.**

GROUND & TRAIN: November 10–17, 2016 with Melanie Elliott

Fee: \$2,695 includes GST, shared accommodations, carpool and fuel, coach train from The Pas to Churchill, local travel, Tundra Buggy®, meals, and educational lectures. A 10% deposit is required to secure your spot. **Full fee due July 31, 2016.**

Learn more at one of our FREE information sessions. Everyone is Welcome!

Wednesday, June 8 and/or June 22, 7:00–8:30 pm

Room 224/225 Williams Building, 221 Cumberland Avenue North, Saskatoon.

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Professor's radio show a labour of love

✍ JAMES SHEWAGA

He is one of the country's most highly regarded public policy professors and a respected regular contributor for national media like CTV and CBC.

He has published more than a dozen books and a hundred peer-reviewed journal articles, holds a Canada Research Chair in Public Policy and has filled visiting fellowships overseas in Denmark and Finland as well as at world-class U.S. schools like Harvard and George Washington University.

But it was while working part-time at McDonald's, of all places, that University of Saskatchewan (U of S) political sociologist Daniel Béland first discovered his passion. Just to be clear, we are talking Brahms, not burgers, as classical music quickly became a feast for the ears for Béland.

"It started when I was a teenager (17 years old) when I met someone when I was working for McDonald's and he was listening to classical music during his breaks and he started to tell me about it and I started

to buy some recordings," said Béland, who grew up in Quebec and moved to Saskatoon back in 2008 to teach at the U of S. "So that's the way it started."

Béland's taste for classical music continues to this day, as he cooks up a smorgasbord of symphonic delights on his weekly live local radio show that he has hosted every Monday night for the past seven years.

"I do have the passion for it, yes," said Béland, whose 90-minute classical music show *Classical Discoveries* is broadcast Monday evenings from 7-8:30 on CFR 90.5 FM and also carried live on the internet.

"I enjoy it. When you invest four or five hours a week (of studio time, as well as several hours writing program notes) every week, you have to enjoy it. And I spend a lot more time thinking about programming as well."

Béland's commitment to showcasing classical music has been a challenge at times over the years, given his busy schedule on and off campus



Daniel Béland, Canada Research Chair in Public Policy at CFR radio studio.

PHOTO SUBMITTED

with travel, teaching and research. But all those unpaid hours as a volunteer host on local non-profit community radio give the 44-year-old a chance to pursue his passion by showcasing prominent Canadian composers and musicians, supporting the local symphony and music scene and the freedom to feature a wide variety of eras and genres.

"The show is devoted to, and the focus is on, lesser-known composers or lesser-known works by well-known composers," said Béland, who

estimates he has at least 4,000 albums in his extensive classical music collection. "I like to discover new repertoire. Every week I discover new compositions and new recordings and I try to feature that on my show. And of course I play the great classics as well, but always alongside new discoveries, and this includes quite a bit of contemporary or modern music, including Canadian music."

Personally, Béland's most beloved composer is German Johannes Brahms (1833-1897), while his favourite piece of

music is the *Double Concerto for Two String Orchestras, Piano and Timpani* by Czech composer Bohuslav Martinu (1890-1959).

But Béland is also a big backer of the local music scene, from the Elixir Ensemble and the U of S Wind Orchestra to U of S music professor and Hungarian composer Gyula Csapó, who has been a guest on Béland's show. Béland and his wife Angela Kempf—who previously worked in alumni relations and development at the U of S and is now director of development at the Saskatoon Symphony Orchestra (SSO)—are also strong supporters and donors to the SSO.

His show serves as a perfect platform for promoting local music and for Béland to celebrate classical composers from around the world.

"Each show has a specific theme or a focus on an instrument or an era or a specific genre, so it is really diverse," said Béland. "I select the repertoire and the theme and what pieces I will play, and then I have to write notes to introduce each piece. And from a local aspect, I promote and talk about the classical music concerts and music activities in town, and sometimes the lectures at the university here. ... It is quite a bit of work, but I really enjoy it." ■

Campus visit trip down memory lane

From Page 6

Business Administration—and later moved on to the London School of Economics before beginning a successful career in international banking and as a global leader in development in Asia and the Pacific. But his experience as an international student on campus at the U of S was about so much more than lectures and labs.

"In addition to the very solid academic training that the university imparts, I have always felt that the U of S also gave me a sense of good grounding in reality," said Nag. "Maybe it's the Prairie setting, maybe it's the human scale of things here, maybe it's the sense of values in a place like Saskatchewan, and perhaps it's a combination of all the above. But I felt that the U of S gave me a complete education, going beyond just the books and the academics, as very important of course as they are."

Those Canadian values mirrored his own, and Nag has spent his working life dedicated to balancing economic development with a commitment to education and the environment. After beginning his career as an economist with the Bank of Canada, Nag served as the managing director of the Asian Development Bank, building business opportunities and infrastructure in Asia and the Pacific. But equally important to

Nag has been his commitment to equality, justice and human rights, particularly gender-related issues.

"I am currently working to enhance regional co-operation and integration in Asia and beyond, and bridging the gap between the region's thriving economies and the millions of poor being left behind," said Nag. "Income inequality is increasing in most of Asia," he added. "Progress on other issues such as justice and rights varies across the region, but in almost all cases much remains to be done."

Now 67 and living in Delhi, Nag has visited Saskatoon several times over the years and has lifelong friends here in the city and on campus. Nag will return again later this month when he is awarded an Honorary Doctor of Laws during the first ceremony of U of S Spring Convocation on Monday, May 30, when the Colleges of Agriculture and Biore-sources, as well as Engineering, take centre stage at TCU Place.

"I have been back several times and have had the honour of speaking to students and other guests during my visits," Nag said. "I was here only last year with my wife and it was a great homecoming; a great trip down memory lane. I still have several very close friends here in Saskatoon who have actually long since become my family ... Saskatoon always remains a very special place for me to cherish as home." ■

20TH ANNUAL U OF S APPRECIATION PICNIC

TUESDAY, JUNE 14, 2016

Bring your family and join us for treats and activities in the Bowl between 11am and 2pm.

Students are welcome to join in the fun with the faculty and staff.

<p>\$2 Hot dog combo </p> <p>\$3 Burger or veggie burger combo </p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">All combos include a beverage and dessert.</p>	<p>Bring your reusable water bottle.</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">There will be a water re-filling station set up during the event.</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">You can also pack your own lunch if you prefer. </p>	
<p> There will be photographs taken.</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">You can also take your own. Be sure to tag #usask. </p>	<p> If it rains,</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">the event will be on Wednesday, June 15.</p>	<p> If you're a shift worker,</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">meet us in Marquis Hall from 6:30 - 7:30 pm on Tuesday, June 14.</p>

UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

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.

Summer ESL Classes

July-August, writing, speaking, pronunciation, reading, listening. Contact: the Language Centre, 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 (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: \$225 (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

Connecting Education and Environment: Mobilizing Sustainability in Education Policy, Practice, and Research Conference

The Sustainability Education Research Institute (SERI), Sustainability and Education Policy Network (SEPN) and partners invite you to take part in a unique opportunity to engage with internationally recognized researchers, educators, and policy makers working in the area of education and environment. Location: College of Education, University of Saskatchewan. June 10-11, 8 am-5 pm. Interactive panels in five strands: K-12 Education, Higher Education, Community Education, Indigenous Education, Education Theory. The event will be a valuable resource to educators, administrators, policy makers, students, sustainability staff, organizations,

communities, and researchers. For more information and to register, please visit the SERI website at seri.usask.ca.

Sustainable Energy Options for Saskatchewan Conference

May 27, 8 am-5:30 pm. Saskatchewan's electricity sector is currently entering a unique transitional period that presents opportunities for new innovations and pathways forward. Join decision-makers and experts to discuss the options. Registration includes access to the day's events, including morning and afternoon keynote presentations, the Pathways to Zero workshop, and concurrent breakout sessions. Snacks and lunch are also included. Registration closes on May 19. Questions? Email us at sens_energy-conference@usask.ca. For tickets, visit: picatic.com/sensenergyconference.

Sustain the Gains: Sustainability and Global Health

Oct. 1, 2016 8 am-4:30pm, Edwards School of Business. The Global Health Conference is dedicated to raising awareness about pressing global health issues. This will be a forum to discuss and analyze practices and policies that move us towards sustainability and health equity. This one-day conference is an opportunity for researchers, students, educators and community members involved and interested in global health to network and discuss exciting research, programs, and projects in the field. Participants will be inspired to work collaboratively toward sustainability in global health. Visit usask.ca/global-health-conference/ for more information.

Canadian Council for the Advancement of Education National Conference

"The Creative Journey: Bridging Where We Are to Where We Want to Be" will be held June 7-10 in Saskatoon. Hosted by the U of S, Saskatchewan Polytechnic and the University of Regina, the conference promises sessions on today's trends and tomorrow's breakthroughs in advancement services, alumni relations, communications and marketing, and development. Join us for three dynamic keynote presentations from W. Brett

Wilson, entrepreneur, philanthropist and former fan favourite on *Dragon's Den*; Janet Kestin and Nancy Vonk, the creative duo behind Dove's Campaign for Real Beauty; and Kim Coates, U of S alumnus and actor on the hit television series *Sons of Anarchy*. Learn more and register at ccaecanada.org/en/ or call Sandy Lazar at 306-966-7910 or Kris Brown 306-966-7636.

■ Miscellany

Kids Summer Art Camps

Williams Building, 221 Cumberland Ave. N. Monday-Friday, July 4-Aug. 26, 9 am-4 pm. 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>.

Community Eco-Tours

Polar Bear Ecology Tours to Churchill, MB, Nov 7-9 or 10-17, 2016. After much demand we are running a three-day fly-in tour and the eight-day train tour to Churchill to learn about and observe polar bears waiting on the edge of Hudson's Bay for the ice to freeze. It is there where they hunt seals. Public information nights will be held on June 8 and 22, 7-8:30 pm in Room 224/225 Williams Building, 221 Cumberland Ave N. Call 306-966-5484 for more information or 306-966-5539 to register.

Here's Looking At You: Memory, Portrait, and Biography

On view in the Murray Library, Link Gallery until July 31, this exhibition explores themes of memory, portrait, and biography utilizing materials from the University of Saskatchewan's University Archives and Special Collections, the Museum of Antiquities and the University

Art Collection. Carefully selected and showcased by Archivist Cheryl Avery and classics specialist Beth Richert, items range from the textual, to the graphic, the photographic, the artifactual and beyond. This allows the viewer to contemplate the multifaceted ways in which human beings capture the essence of themselves and others, as well the often whimsical ways in which memory is preserved.

Open House Tour, CLS Guest Residence at Ogle Hall

Join us for refreshments and a chance to tour the CLS Guest Residence at Ogle Hall on June 8 from 11:30 am-1:30 pm. Our location is 113 Seminary Crescent, Saskatoon. With its beautiful location along the riverbank and proximity to campus, Ogle Hall is the perfect accommodation for visitors to the University of Saskatchewan and Innovation Place. Booking information is available on the CLS website: lightsource.ca/pages/accommodations.

➤ SUBMIT
Coming events

Email ocn@usask.ca

ONLINE AT:
usask.ca/events/promotion.php

On Campus News

is done for the year and will resume publishing towards the end of summer. University news can be found online at news.usask.ca. If you have stories to share, email news@usask.ca.

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U of S SUPPLIER

TRADE SHOW

Tuesday, May 31, 2016

9:30 am – 2:00 pm

Main Gymnasium,
College of Kinesiology, PAC

WHY ATTEND?

- New vendors
- Preview new products
- Pick up free samples and giveaways
- Meet with suppliers of scientific lab supplies and equipment, office supplies and furniture, travel agency, hotels and more.

Thank You to Elk Ridge Resort for providing this year's major door prize valued at over \$700! Be sure to enter to win.

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UNIVERSITY OF
SASKATCHEWAN

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



Howling for Huskies!

A natural team player, Howler the Huskie brings joy to everyone he meets.

"I like to encourage others, whether it's welcoming new students during Orientation, dancing on the sidelines at football games, or cheering courtside for our national champion women's basketball team," said the mascot for the University of Saskatchewan's Huskie Athletics.

For four days next week, Howler will bring his enthusiasm and zest for life to a new location—at the Spring Convocation ceremonies at TCU Place in downtown Saskatoon. While it is a bit more formal than his usual appearances, he sees no reason not to celebrate the occasion.

"People commit a significant part of their life to their education," he said. "Now they're done—what an accomplishment! This is my first time at convocation and I'm honoured to be a part of it."

Howler has humble beginnings, growing up on a farm just outside of Nipawin, Sask. alongside many brothers and sisters. As a young pup, he loved the wide open space and helping his humans on the farm. However, he always knew he was destined for the city—and for the U of S.

"I come from a long line of hard-working mascot dogs," he exclaimed proudly. Besides being a tireless sled dog, his grandpa Duke is emblazoned as a bronze statue outside of Griffiths Stadium in PotashCorp Park. His father, Hymie, spent some time at early Huskies hockey games, while his uncle can be seen as the skating dog on the men's hockey jerseys.

Howler hopes to keep his family pride alive while bringing Huskie Athletics fans to their feet.

"I'm a big sports fan and am full of spirit for the U of S Huskies. Oh, and I can walk quite easily on my hind legs, which is a great skill to have."

