



## GOING ORGANIC

From production to policy making to promoting, organic food is big business, and Canada's organic sector has grown exponentially in recent years, with demand outpacing the supply.

But do the ends justify the means? U of S experts in agriculture, policy and marketing weigh in on the debate.

Read the full story on Page 8.



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# New University Council chair brings collegial perspective

LESLEY PORTER

Lisa Kalynchuk didn't have any intention to become University Council chair.

A neuropsychology professor in the College of Medicine, Kalynchuk had served as the chair of the planning and priorities committee of University Council for two years. Though the role gave her immense context on the university's inner workings, she was getting ready to hang up her hat.

It was the urging of fellow council members and committee chairs, however, that persuaded her to put her name forward after former chair Jay Kalra stepped down in June to serve on the Board of Governors.

"I love the idea of collegial self-governance, and I love the idea of academics debating ideas," she said. "Council is the body that moves the university's academic mission forward. I think it is crucial to the success of the university and it's a massive privilege to be in this role."

The University Council chair, she continued, "needs to have a broad perspective and be able to manage all the various things that are coming

from the campus community that might need to come to a council meeting."

Serving as a committee chair, then, was no doubt a great precursor to her new role, especially when it comes to big-picture ideas and projects. "What I loved about planning and priorities is the strategic planning part of it," she said. "You get to see the university finances and have conversations about the operations forecast and other documents we have that are quite important from a financial point of view."

As chair, she also ensures that agendas address important items and that the meetings themselves are done openly and fairly.

"I want everyone to know that council is a fair place where everyone's voice is valued and important, and everyone should get their chance to speak their mind," Kalynchuk said.

She brings this approach to her leadership style, which she defined as collaborative and consultative. As a solutions-oriented researcher, however, she also recognizes "that



Lisa Kalynchuk, University Council chair

the time comes when you have to reach a decision. You want to be fair and transparent and have a fulsome discussion—particularly with items that are a bit contentious—but you need to direct people and bring people around to a decision."

In addition to her role in the College of Medicine, Kalynchuk is the interim associate dean of interdisciplinary health research in the Office of the Vice-Provost Health (formerly the Council of Health Science Deans). With three jobs on the go, time can be tight. Aside from

colour-coded calendar blocks, she works closely with the University Secretary's office, as well as various committee chairs of University Council, to keep things in check.

"We have a group of council committee chairs that are outstanding," she explained, adding that they provide immense support to her in the form of advice and judgment. "They're all so capable and can manage their committees really well. They're a fantastic group to work with and I really appreciate having them on board." ■



## IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

A lot happens at the U of S during the weeks when *On Campus News* isn't published. Here are a few of the top stories from [news.usask.ca](http://news.usask.ca):

### CREATE justice research centre launched

The CREATE Justice research centre in the College of Law, announced Oct. 25, will address key gaps in data and access to justice research in Canada.

### New U of S childcare centre opens

On Oct. 17, the U of S unveiled its first stand-alone childcare facility, a one-storey building with space for 90 children, aged six months to six years.

### Research holds promise for curing food allergies

U of S scientists developed an immunotherapy technique that nearly eliminates allergic response to peanut and egg white proteins in food-allergic mice. One treatment reduced anaphylactic response by up to 90 per cent.

### Nutrition receives accreditation

The nutrition program has received seven-year full accreditation status (2015-2022) for both the academic and practicum components of the program. The U of S program is one of the fully integrated nutrition programs which combines undergraduate education with the internship required to become a registered dietitian.

FOR MORE UP-TO-THE-MINUTE NEWS, VISIT: [news.usask.ca](http://news.usask.ca) @usask

# Creating a campus-wide wellness strategy

LESLEY PORTER

With a structure now in place, work continues on a university-wide wellness strategy—set to be released next year.

Cheryl Carver, associate vice-president human resources, said the goal of this strategy is to support the health and well-being of U of S students, faculty, staff and visitors.

Developing and implementing a wellness strategy has been a priority for Carver since taking over leadership of the HR portfolio just over two years ago. Following an initial organizational assessment, “we identified we don’t have an effective approach to wellness,” she said. “I think we were fairly good at the intervention side, but most of what we did was reactionary. We would deal with a crisis as it arose, but not so much in terms of promoting wellness and taking a preventative approach to it.”

It made sense, Carver continued, to work collaboratively, so she reached out to Patti

McDougall, vice-provost teaching and learning, who was very interested in establishing a partnership to move the strategy forward.

“A lot of the issues they’re experiencing from a student perspective are similar to the kinds of issues we experience from a staff perspective,” said Carver. “It’s high-priority in terms of her agenda and it’s also high-priority from an HR perspective.”

Using a holistic approach, the proposed structure looks to build on the work of the healthy campus committee and their eight dimensions of wellness: emotional, environmental, financial, intellectual, occupational, physical, social and spiritual. With help from an external human resources consulting agency, the group—made up of Carver, McDougall, senior leaders, and internal and external wellness experts—is now working to add meat to the structure’s bones. This includes researching best practices across other organi-

zations (including other U15 institutions) and soliciting input from the campus community, explained Carver. Once completed, the document will include recommendations on a number of organizational tactics to promote the overall wellness strategy.

The first priority of the wellness strategy is the development of a mental health strategy. According to data from campus service providers (such as Employee and Family Assistance Program, or EFAP, and Sun Life, the benefits provider for faculty and staff), mental health issues are affecting U of S employees in a very serious way. Mental health issues rank as the top cause of long-term disability in staff members, and prescriptions for central nervous system diagnoses (such as depression, addiction and bi-polar disorder) have represented the top disease classification by number of claims for U of S employees. Similarly, issues pertaining to anxiety, relationships and depres-



Cheryl Carver, associate vice-president human resources

fairly consistent for a number of years, which is another driving factor for this,” said Carver. She also reiterated the need for preventative options for a more mentally sound workplace.

In the meantime, the university is not exactly standing still.

“We still, as an organization, take steps to address wellness on campus,” said Carver, listing supports available through the wellness office and EFAP that address common challenges. “There’s a number of programs happening, but it’s not necessarily all aligned to an institutional strategy, which is what we want to see.”

With all this on the go, Carver is excited to be part of a co-ordinated dialogue on such an important topic. “When this all comes together, this is going to put us on a very different level as an organization and I’m really excited about it.” ■

sion are the top issues based on analysis at the campus EFAP office.

Not only does this data align with similar indicators on a national level, “it tells us that this is the number one issue and that’s been

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND UPDATES ON THE STRATEGY, VISIT [USASK.CA/WELLNESS-STRATEGY](http://USASK.CA/WELLNESS-STRATEGY).

## Mental health in the Canadian workplace



1 in 5

Canadians will experience a mental illness in their lifetime.

+500,000  
Canadians



miss a day of work due to mental health reasons every week.



+\$50 billion

cost of mental health and illness to the Canadian economy each year.



+\$6 billion

in lost productivity costs due to absenteeism and presenteeism.

+80%

of Canadian employers report mental health problems and illnesses as one of the **top three drivers** for both short- and long-term disability claims.

## Mental health at the U of S



Mental health

is the top health risk currently affecting U of S employees



#1

reason for U of S **Long-Term Disability (LTD)** claims approved and paid year-after-year.

1. ANXIETY RELATED

2. RELATIONSHIPS

3. DEPRESSION RELATED PSYCHOLOGICAL

These are the top issues based on analysis of U of S Employee and Family Assistance Program (EFAP) program utilization.

Central Nervous System Prescriptions



have represented the **top disease classification** by number of claims for U of S employees.

73%

of all Central Nervous System claims were used for mental illness purposes.

# A provost's priorities

## Michael Atkinson outlines goals as interim provost and VP academic

✍ KRIS FOSTER

When Michael Atkinson stepped into the role of provost and vice-president academic for a second time on Oct. 1, he had a clear sense of what projects he wanted to start and what goals he wanted to accomplish.

"It's two roles, really," said Atkinson who was the universi-

ty's first provost and vice-president academic from 1997 to 2007. "The vice-president academic is responsible for the colleges and the student experience at the university. The provost is a different role—the person in this role needs to develop an academic agenda and connect

that to the financial decisions of the university."

To that end, Atkinson highlighted a few key areas that will be important to him during his tenure as interim provost: understand the current fiscal situation of the university, launch the next integrated plan, participate in a discussion of the quality of the student experience, and initiate a conversation on the standards for tenure and promotion for faculty.

"We are entering a period in which we have to be more selective and cautious financially speaking," said Atkinson who was previously a professor in the Johnson Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy. "We have to ensure our budgetary situation is sustainable and I expect to spend time understanding what our commitments are, and where necessary either slowing them down or trimming them back in order to meet our capacity."

Atkinson said an immediate priority is to respond creatively to the current provincial financial situation.

"We understand the situation and we are going to approach the province accordingly. We have to think about different scenarios here, but we must also attend to very pressing needs that won't wait until the economy recovers."

Atkinson expects the short-term to be financially turbulent, but as a self-described fiscal conservative who has been through this before, he said he is well prepared.

"Every provost is a fiscal conservative and brings a skeptical eye to suggestions, ideas and requests. Every provost asks whether this is



Michael Atkinson, interim provost and vice-president academic.

genuinely needed or if things can be accomplished in other ways with the resources we have," he said. "Making sure we are financially and academically sustainable is part of what the provost does. We need to be sure the investments we are making have real returns for the community and

**“ We are entering a period in which we have to be more selective and cautious, financially speaking. We have to ensure our budgetary situation is sustainable ...**

Michael Atkinson

support learning and the student experience.”

Planning and consultations for the next integrated plan are just getting underway. While parameters, framework and timelines for the next integrated plan will be led by Atkinson's office, he wants the “deans, directors and units to be creative in determining where they want to be in four years' time.”

Atkinson is clear that while he is responsible for “getting the timelines and process underway so we can have something we are very proud of,” he is unlikely to be in the provost's office

when the next integrated plan seeks approval from the senior governing bodies in 2018.

Atkinson is, of course, also responsible for the recruitment of deans and other senior positions.

“I take that role very seriously,” he said. “There are quite a few positions that are open and I will assume responsibility for many of those dean searches. That will take a great deal of my time.”

Another search Atkinson is keenly interested in is that of the provost and vice-president academic, a role he expects to be filled in short order.

“We are in an active search and have a head start and that's a good thing because we are competing with a few other universities. I would expect that if we can find someone to fit our needs, and that person wants to join us, then we should have a permanent provost by July 1, 2017.”

An interesting contradiction for Atkinson is the short-term nature of his appointment and the long-term nature of his duties.

“When you come into a job like this you can either keep the seat



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SEE SETTING, PAGE 15

# London calling for healthy campus community

 JAMES SHEWAGA

The new dean of the College of Kinesiology wants to hit the ground running—or walking—whatever gets you moving on campus.

Chad London officially began his five-year term as dean on Nov. 1 and has set a lofty goal for the University of Saskatchewan's (U of S) campus community.

"I would really love to see the U of S be the healthiest campus in the country and I think the College of Kinesiology is perfectly placed to be a leader in championing healthy living across campus," said London. "I think that would be a wonderful measure to attain for the university and I don't think it's unrealistic."

"When you ask about my philosophy for healthy living and how it can help students and staff and faculty, it can help them in all aspects of their health, not only their physical health but also their mental health, emotional health and social well-being."

The 45-year-old native of Lethbridge, Alta., came to the U of S from Calgary's Mount Royal University where he was serving as dean of the Faculty of Health, Community and Education. For London, working in the field of kinesiology—focused on the study of human movement, active living and healthy lifestyles—is not just his profession, but his passion. And he is determined to help the college take a leading role in inspiring and helping students, staff and faculty across campus and in the broader community.

"We need to get moving," said London, who earned a Bachelor of Arts at the University of Lethbridge, a master's in

SEE RECREATION, PAGE 15



 DAVID STOBBE

# From student to chancellor

LESLEY PORTER

**F**rom politician to premier to public policy professor, Roy Romanow's enthusiasm for the University of Saskatchewan has always been steadfast. Now the university's 15th chancellor—a role he assumed on Nov. 1—Romanow is honoured to continue serving the campus community that means so much to him.



DAVID STOBBE

“This is my university,” he said. “This is where I dreamt I would attend when I was a young student.”

He explained that the value of attaining post-secondary education was instilled in him at a young age. From there, it was something he built his life around.

“I think I can quite safely say, without university education, I probably would not have been fortunate enough to experience the various things which life has provided for me,” he said. “My father, who came to Canada from Ukraine, always wanted his children to get higher education, something which he was not fortunate to receive. So I am very honoured and very indebted and very much an admirer of this great institution.”

As executive and ceremonial head of the university, the chancellor has a de facto seat on the Board of Governors. Other duties include, but are not limited to, conferring

began when he was first elected to the provincial legislature in 1967. From 1971 to 1982 he served as Deputy Premier and Attorney General of Saskatchewan. He played a key role in the federal-provincial negotiations that resulted in the *Constitution Act 1982*, which includes the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

Romanow became the Leader of the Opposition in 1987. He served in this role until 1991, when he became Premier of Saskatchewan—a title he would hold for nearly a decade. After retiring from politics in 2001, he was appointed by then Prime Minister Jean Chrétien to lead the Royal Commission on the Future of Health Care in Canada and, in 2004, became a member of the federal Privy Council through a five-year appointment to Canada's Security Intelligence Review Committee.

Most recently, Romanow was a senior policy fellow in the College of Arts and Science at the U of S.

“Every one of those activities, in some way has—at least in my case—enriched me, expanded my vision, my concept of life, how precious it is and how short-lived it is,” he said.

While he is still working through a list of priorities for his tenure as chancellor, one objective for Romanow is to ensure that the spirit of learning and discovery—the same

Roy Romanow

“I would say that the chancellor's role is to make sure that he or she is both a shield and a sword, in the sense of a protector and a promoter of academic excellence and academic freedom.”

degrees at convocation ceremonies and acting as a university ambassador to the external community.

“I would say that the chancellor's role is to make sure that he or she is both a shield and a sword in the sense of a protector and a promoter of academic excellence and academic freedom,” said Romanow.

His wealth of experience will no doubt ensure a smooth transition to the chancellor's office. Born and raised in Saskatoon, Romanow completed degrees in political studies and law at the U of S. His involvement in student government was perhaps a foreshadow for a robust career in public office, which

one that has played such a pivotal role in his life—is maintained.

“We rank up there as one of the top universities in the country, and I would even say beyond, so it's a great base that we stand upon,” he said, highlighting the university's rich history, bright students, dedicated alumni and extensive research outputs.

As time passes, however, the university must work hard “to make sure that that base isn't weakened.

“The makings are here to keep moving onwards and upwards in our contribution to our province and perhaps even more importantly, our great country.” ■

# Gone Bollywood

## Class focuses on Indian film industry

LESLEY PORTER

Bollywood is seen as a bright, colourful film genre synonymous with elaborate song and dance routines and melodramatic love triangles. As part of the Indian film industry—the largest in the world—Bollywood’s impact goes much further than ornate costumes and songs.

It started out as another form of entertainment for Meera Kachroo, a sessional lecturer in the College of Arts and Science who is currently teaching a Bollywood film class in the Department of Religious Studies and Linguistics. While attending graduate school, however, she and her colleagues would host Bollywood movie screening nights and use the opportunity to critically examine the films at a deeper level.

“I started to really appreciate the way that you can use Bollywood as a medium for talking about culture and history at large,” said Kachroo.

When she came to the U of S three years ago, she taught a pre-existing version of the course, which consisted mostly of older films that were longer in length and shot entirely in black and white. Following a lukewarm reaction from her students, Kachroo updated the class to include more recent, contemporary films that speak directly to cultural issues in India, such as politics, religion, art, gender and history.

“The earliest film we watch is from 1975, and we move very quickly to the ‘90s and the 2000s,” she said. “There’s a lot of material to reflect on and challenge a lot of the assumptions in those Bollywood films, to move past the pure enjoyment of them and into a more critical stance on movies.”



Meera Kachroo, a sessional lecturer in the College of Arts and Science.

LESLEY PORTER

Those mainstays of the genre—the wedding and the dance routines—have an inherent entertainment value, said Kachroo. Contextually, however, they also serve as a very potent display of wealth, privilege and familial ties

in a country where one’s socioeconomic status carries significant weight.

“That becomes very important,” she explained, “in a very populist country to display the wealth of your family and your status in society.

“I started to really appreciate the way that you can use Bollywood as a medium for talking about culture and history at large.”

Meera Kachroo

And it’s not so different in the West.”

The importance of family values is another hallmark that lends itself to the genre. While there is typically a love triangle or romantic conflict in a movie, it is for reasons that are not as commonly seen in the West.

“The problem encountered by the lovers is very often one of their family not approving,” explained Kachroo, adding that approval—or lack thereof—from parents and extended family is a huge obstacle for characters to overcome. Save for *Romeo and Juliet*, “it would be difficult to find that kind of motivation or obstruction in Hollywood movies.”

Another major difference

between Bollywood and its North American counterpart is the actual movie-going experience. It is a much more collective event, said Kachroo, and more social than psychological.

“People go to movies in large groups and it’s a very social experience,” she said. “People don’t sit back and just get into the movie like we do here. It is totally the norm to socialize, to comment on the film, to interact with the characters.”

And why is that? Aside from the social experience that connects movie viewers with their friends and extended families, “I think that’s just how it’s always been in India,” said Kachroo.

Kachroo expects her students—particularly those who haven’t seen any Bollywood films—to learn about the industry and some of its key players, and how the films address contemporary Indian politics, history and cultural values. On a larger scale, Kachroo hopes to show the intrinsic value of popular culture found in media products such as movies.

“People don’t respect pop culture, but it’s becoming a bigger and bigger field of academic inquiry,” she said. “If you can look critically at those things that fascinate us, those things that can capture our attention, then we can find out a lot of things about ourselves and we can find out a lot of things about culture at large.” ■

### FAST FACTS ABOUT

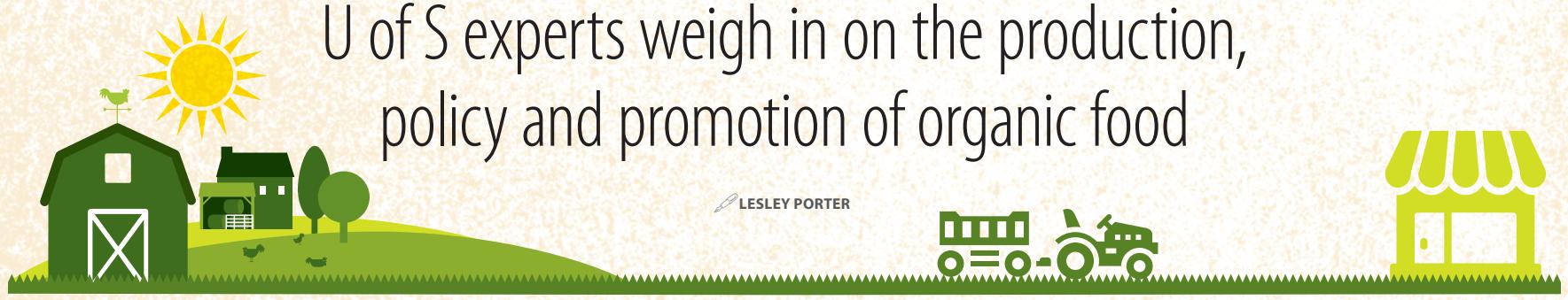
- Based in Mumbai, Bollywood is the Hindi language fragment of the larger Indian film industry, which produces about 1,000 films per year. Hollywood produces about half that number annually.
- Bollywood is considered the largest movie industry in the world. In 2013, the number of cinema admissions in India alone was over two billion.
- The first Bollywood movie was produced in 1899—11 years before the debut of the first movie made in Hollywood.
- Bollywood actor Shah Rukh Khan is the third-richest actor in the world, behind only Merv Griffin and Jerry Seinfeld, respectively.
- The most celebrated Bollywood actor is Amitabh Bachchan (nicknamed The Big B), who has appeared in over 150 films in his four-decade career. By comparison, Al Pacino has appeared in about 50 movies.
- Outside of India, Bollywood movies are tremendously popular in Russia, southeast Asia, the Caribbean and eastern Africa.



# THE BIG BUSINESS

## of ORGANIC FOOD

### U of S experts weigh in on the production, policy and promotion of organic food



LESLEY PORTER

Over the past two decades, Canada’s organic food industry has grown from a niche market to big business. The most recent data from Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (2008) counted close to 4,000 organic producers across the country, producing everything from grains to vegetables to livestock. That same year, organic retail sales were approximately \$2 billion, and nearly half of all organic foods were purchased through mainstream supermarkets—meaning big-box retailers such as SuperStore and Sobey’s are hopping on the organic bandwagon.

The organic industry and its supporters tout its cleanliness—that the lack of pesticides and genetically modified organisms (GMOs) result in a healthier, more nutritious product. However, Dietitians of Canada—the professional agency representing 6,000 registered dietitians across the country—have stated that there is a lack of scientific evidence proving the nutrient value of organic food over its conventional counterpart, or that there are any health benefits at all.

While it’s a complicated debate, U of S experts are examining a number of areas between farm and fork, particularly the production, policy and promotion of organic products.

#### GROWING ORGANICS

The challenge and curiosity of organic farming is what drove Steve Shirtliffe to study organic field crops, which make up more than half of Canada’s organic farms.

“Organic is a real challenge,” said

Shirtliffe, a researcher and agronomist in the College of Agriculture and Biore-sources. “It’s hard to do.”

The pragmatic difference between organic and conventional crops is what you add—or don’t add—to them.

“You can’t spray them with synthetic pesticides or fertilize them with synthetic fertilizers. That’s the main thing,” Shirtliffe said. This method must be maintained for three years—a significant period of time that deters many farmers from fully adopting

organic growing.

It’s such a deterrent that it begs the question of why farmers pursue organic at all. Initially, Shirtliffe explained, farmers pursued organic farming largely for ideological reasons.

“They were opposed to herbicides and pesticides and were looking for a better way,” he said. Within the past 10-15 years, however, more farmers have started practicing organic methods for economic reasons.

“That’s one of their big motiva-

tors: they think they can make more money farming organically,” he explained. “Some of them are, some of them aren’t. It depends on the person and their management ability.”

Shirtliffe’s research looks at ways to manage crops organically, particularly how to increase overall organic yields which average between 60 to 70 per cent of their non-organic counterpart, he explained. “That’s almost universally accepted now.”

A lack of nutrients in the soil—such as phosphorus and nitrogen—is a major production-related challenge for organic farmers, he continued. For example, nitrogen is important for plant growth because it makes proteins, but without synthetic fertilizer those levels tend to be significantly lower, hence the lower yields. Interim methods such as nitrogen fixation—a process where bacteria in the plants symbiotically take nitrogen out of the atmosphere—are effective to an extent, until harvest time when the majority of the nitrogen is taken off along with the crop. To re-add nitrogen to the soil for the next season, organic farmers must grow a cover crop of organic manure for a year.

“You don’t have that intensity of being able to crop every year, to get a crop that you can export,” he explained. “There are some years where you’ll have to have a soil-building crop, whereas in conventional farming you can just buy fertilizer.”

Despite the obstacles associated with production, “there’s a consumer demand for organic food out there,” said Shirtliffe, adding that similar challenges exist in conventional farming systems.

In the meantime, he enjoys the challenges of organic farming and passing that knowledge on to producers.

“Organic farmers tend to be so grateful of information that you provide. The hunger for research and information is really high and people are really appreciative.”

#### GETTING POLITICAL

For Lisa Clark, the food system is a

very personal, subjective space.

“It’s about people’s perceptions about what the proper role of corporations should be in society, especially in the food system,” said Clark, a research associate in the Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics, “and what is the socially acceptable relationship



Lisa Clark, Marjorie Delbaere and Steve Shirtliffe.

“It’s about people’s perceptions about what the proper role of corporations should be in society, especially in the food system.”

Lisa Clark

between government and industry that society is comfortable with.”

Her book, *The Changing Politics of Organic Food in North America*, examines the politics behind food systems and the beliefs of the people consuming it.

What makes organics and GMOs very political, she continued, is that their formal interpretation is often very different from what people think it is. This includes definitions of what constitutes an organic production process, which vary from country to country.

The application of a social conscience to the consumption of food is another element of the politicized food debate.

“People want to find a type of food that doesn’t require all of these industrializing processes and the harms that go with them,” said Clark. “It’s not so much ‘I don’t want to eat conventional food,’ it’s more ‘I don’t want to participate and support conventional agricultural practices which have been associated with climate change, displacement of rural communities and rural labour, water pollution, animal cruelty’—the list goes on.”

Whether that’s possible, and if

that food is economically accessible to everyone, is another question entirely.

“Food’s a little weird,” said Clark, adding that certain demographics of people will simply not sacrifice food quality. “In their mind, it’s better for their child’s development and health and they

don’t want to take that chance that something in the conventional food will harm their child.”

The truthfulness of such a claim is not the point, she explained, “because that’s what people believe and that translates into purchasing power.”

#### TO MARKET, TO MARKET

The marketing of organic food can also play on people’s values and personal beliefs.

“There’s a huge marketing element to it, for a lot of different reasons,” explained Marjorie Delbaere, a marketing professor in the Edwards School of Business. “Organic is going more mainstream because they recognize that this was something that people valued.”

For starters, Delbaere continued, the certification element is clearly identifiable to consumers and functions like a brand in that it facilitates decision-making in an ambiguous market.

“If you get to know a brand and depend on it, you don’t even have to think about your decision anymore,” she said, adding that marketers are well aware of this. “That’s what products are supposed

to do: to help you solve the problems of your life and persuade you that this is the best way to do it.”

And as with any product, a significant amount of research is dedicated to determining the ideal consumer—their needs and resources kept front-of-mind, said Delbaere. In the case of organics, they are typically geared toward those who value a certain lifestyle—such as prioritizing their health and concern about environmental toxins and pollutants. Demographics and gender also play a role, Delbaere continued, as women tend to be the primary decision-makers when it comes to buying groceries and household goods. Ultimately, the financial ability to pay a premium for groceries is a top consideration.

However, those who can’t afford it or simply choose not to buy organic may feel the pangs of an unintended consequence.

“I think it can cause an amount of guilt in some people because we don’t have the expertise or the time to read the research, and even if we did, it’s not always clearly in favour of one versus the other,” she said. “I don’t think that was ever the intention of the organic movement, but it is what has happened.”

#### GETTING REAL

Shirtliffe maintains a reasonable outlook on the future of organic production.

“Yes, organic could probably feed the world if there were major modifications to behaviour—like more people becoming vegetarian,” he said, “but that’s probably not going to happen, because people like meat.”

Instead, his happy-medium system includes pesticide-use only when necessary. That way, “you don’t have a regime, you’re not asking farmers to decide what pesticides to put on the year before so they can get the best package deal on them.”

And while there is uncertainty about organic foods and their health claims, Delbaere believes consumers will speak with their pocketbooks.

“People don’t like ambiguity—we like to have certainty,” she said. “So you can decide, ‘well, there’s a

chance that organic is different, and it might be better, it’s probably not worse.”

Clark turns her attention to affiliated issues, such as misleading labels on food packages. In recent years, food companies have upped their marketing ante by using words such as “natural” or “clean” to describe their products—anything from cookies to Cheetos to hot dogs. “There’s no regulatory backing for any of those terms in Canada,” said Clark, adding that their alignment with the organic movement only misleads and manipulates consumers.

Her course of action? Speak up about it.

“If you are political about food and concerned about it, more than anything, I think we should be talking to our government to make sure our food labels are more stringent and tell us what is actually in our food,” she said. “People want more information. And if you don’t give people proper, accurate, evidence-based information, they will find it elsewhere and it will not be correct and people will start to make up their own world views about these things without accurate information.” ■

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# Waldram chronicles Maya healers

JAMES SHEWAGA



“ And their goal is to communicate to the world that they have sophisticated medical knowledge and that it’s valuable.

James Waldram

The history of the Maya people in Central America dates back more than 4,000 years. It’s one of the world’s great civilizations, with traditional medical practices that University of Saskatchewan researcher James Waldram wants to share with the world.

Founded on ancient Indigenous knowledge, Maya healing methods have been handed down from generation to generation and continue to this day. Every year for the past dozen years, Waldram has

travelled to Belize to live with the Indigenous Q’eqchi’ people and study their traditional healers, and is now preparing to tell their story in his latest book.

“Their medical tradition goes back thousands of years, there’s no question about that,” said Waldram, a renowned researcher in the Department of Archaeology and Anthropology who has spent 33 years at the U of S. “But it changes constantly. What they are practicing today is a very contemporary form

of traditional practice. It includes elements of biomedicine, it includes elements of popular medicine and the practitioners are willing to borrow ideas from anywhere, if they work ...

“And their goal is to communicate to the world that they have sophisticated medical knowledge and that it’s valuable.”

For more than three decades, Waldram has spent his academic career studying and documenting traditional Indigenous knowledge,

healing techniques and mental health practices throughout North America and Central America.

“I have always studied the idea of healing, in one way or another, so I guess you would say it’s a passion and it is the thing that links all of the different places that I have worked,” said Waldram, who won the university’s Distinguished Researcher Award in 2013 and was named a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada in 2014, one of our country’s highest academic honours.

“What I want to do is basically look at how what these Q’eqchi’ healers do is, in fact, a form of medicine. It’s not a scientific medicine but it is a form of medicine and it has an empirical tradition ... What do they know and how do they know it?”

Waldram said the Maya healers are experts in using local medicinal plants to treat everything from gastrointestinal disorders to infectious diseases, and often deal with potentially deadly bites from the fer-de-lance, one of the most poisonous snakes in the world. But Waldram also wants to dispel some of the myths surrounding Maya healers.

“Too many people, including scholars, want to freeze Indigenous people in some kind of mythical past, so that we can have this romantic notion of these healers out in the bush sucking out snake venom with their mouths,” he said. “And yes, they have done that,

but they are well aware it is a very dangerous practice. And when they found out that there are devices that will do it for them and they don’t have to put themselves at risk, they were all for it.”

Waldram’s work in Belize began 12 years ago when he was first contacted by the Maya Healers Association of Belize, which invited him to document their traditional practices in an effort to gain wider acceptance from their government and their medical community.

Waldram carefully chronicled their efforts in a booklet and a 45-minute documentary that he produced entitled *Healthy People, Beautiful Life: Maya Healers of Belize*, which was distributed in the Central American country (and available on Vimeo.com). Now he turns his attention to sharing their story with a wider audience, spending this academic year on sabbatical writing his next book on the subject.

“I have some two thousand pages of just interview transcripts alone and I have more than a hundred hours of video of their healing practices,” said Waldram, whose Maya research has earned him the nod as a finalist for a 2016 Insight Award by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada. “And then there are my own observational notes, my own field notes, so it’s a massive data set. And the sabbatical is the opportunity for me to dig into that data set and to really kind of pull it all together.” ■

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# From Eastern Europe to Western Canada

## International import leads the way for defending national champion Huskies

JAMES SHEWAGA

Lisa Thomaidis searched from coast to coast looking for a starting point guard for her University of Saskatchewan Huskies women's basketball team last season. Little did she know she was looking on the wrong continent.

With recruiting all but wrapped up, the Huskies head coach received an unexpected email from overseas in May of 2015 from a 22-year-old player she had never heard of from Ventspiils, Latvia, who was looking for a place to play in Canada. One year later, Sabine Dukate helped the Huskies win their first national women's basketball championship, capping a memorable journey across the Atlantic and across cultures.

"We had just graduated two of our point guards from the previous season and to get that email out of the blue was great," said Thomaidis. "When she first sent me game-film and I saw her play, I was like, 'Oh my goodness, we need to have her!' So it really is unbelievable how it all happened."

Dukate had played professional basketball the previous three years in Lithuania, where she met her boyfriend. Truth be told, it was his idea to come to Canada for a new adventure and to try to build a career as a massage therapist after acquiring a work visa, with Dukate also interested in going back to school. As she searched basketball websites, Dukate found Thomaidis listed as head coach of Canada's national team, and quickly sent her an email.

"I didn't think someone would respond to my email, since they have their own players in Canada and the university level is pretty high, so I didn't think someone would reply," Dukate said. "But I was lucky. I was thinking this was a really good opportunity for me to study and learn new basketball playing on the team with the best coach in Canada.



Sabine Dukate, U of S Huskies basketball player from Latvia.

Two weeks later, we were here."

However, acquiring a student visa and making the trip overseas were only the first steps in a long process that took months to complete. As an international student who had been out of school for years and whose first language was not English, Dukate had to complete a plethora of paperwork and multiple tests and online courses to prove her proficiency to be eligible to enter university and

suit up for the Huskies. Months of tutoring followed, with Dukate passing her final test on the eve of the start of the fall semester.

"She is a very bright individual and it certainly helped that she was able to speak the language," Thomaidis said. "But it's one thing being able to take part in conversational English, it's clearly another to be able to write a test and prove your competency. So that was very difficult and she literally got it done

on the last possible date right before school started."

While Dukate does speak five languages—Latvian, Lithuanian, German, Russian and English—she admits that she and her boyfriend struggled adjusting to life in a foreign country and trying to make ends meet.

"We struggled a lot, but at the same time, it just makes us stronger," said Dukate, an arts and science student who wants to study kinesiology moving forward. "I learned a lot about myself in this journey. I am happy that we came here and took this chance."

Thomaidis is also thrilled she took a chance on Dukate, who was the final piece of the puzzle for her championship team. Dukate saved her best for when it mattered most, leading the team with 18 points in the Canada West conference final and adding 22 points, seven rebounds and seven assists in the national championship game.

"It was unbelievable," Dukate said. "We went so far and all of last year's players were amazing players and to play with them was an amazing experience. It was a dream (season)."

With Thomaidis' team having graduated four of the five starters from the championship squad, Dukate will be counted on even more to lead a young Huskies squad this season.

"She has really grown over the course of being here for over a year and we are really looking forward to this season because she is a much better player than she was last year," said Thomaidis, whose team will raise the championship banner to the rafters at the Physical Activity Centre on Nov. 19. "I think people are going to find us entertaining to watch and I think we are going to surprise some people." ■

### HUSKIE AT HOME

#### Friday, November 11

Women's Basketball: vs. Winnipeg, at PAC, 6:15 pm

Men's Basketball: vs. Winnipeg, at PAC, 8 pm

#### Saturday, November 12

Women's Basketball: vs. Winnipeg, at PAC, 6:15 pm

Men's Basketball: vs. Winnipeg, at PAC, 8 pm

#### Friday, November 18

Women's Basketball: vs. Brandon, at PAC, 6:15 pm

Men's Basketball: vs. Brandon, at PAC, 8 pm

Women's Hockey: vs. Calgary, at Rutherford Rink, 7 pm

#### Saturday, November 19

Women's Basketball: vs. Brandon, at PAC, 6:15 pm

Men's Basketball: vs. Brandon, at PAC, 8 pm

Women's Hockey: vs. Calgary, at Rutherford Rink, 7 pm

#### Friday, November 25

Women's Volleyball: vs. Brandon, at PAC, 6 pm

Men's Volleyball: vs. Brandon, at PAC, 8 pm

Women's Hockey: vs. Manitoba, at Rutherford Rink, 7 pm

#### Saturday, November 26

Women's Volleyball: vs. Brandon, at PAC, 6 pm

Men's Volleyball: vs. Brandon, at PAC, 8 pm

Women's Hockey: vs. Manitoba, at Rutherford Rink, 7 pm

Wrestling: Huskie Open, at Education Gym.

(Women: 9:30 am to noon.  
Men: 12:30 to 4:30 pm)

More Huskie news, features and profiles at [huskies.usask.ca](http://huskies.usask.ca)

# Clark committed to class and clinic LESLEY PORTER

It was a chance encounter with a U of S professor that first brought Dr. Chris Clark to Saskatchewan.

Now Clark, an associate professor of large animal medicine and associate dean academic at the Western College of Veterinary Medicine (WCVM), is the newest recipient of the Master Teacher Award—the university's highest honour in teaching.

"It's a huge honour, there's no doubt about that at all," said Clark, who received the award at Fall Convocation. "I started as a graduate student, then as a clinical associate and a faculty member, and teaching has been my focus since I've been here, so it's really nice to be recognized."

Originally from the south of England, Clark decided at a young age to pursue veterinary medicine.

"I think probably when I found out what a veterinarian was—I was about seven or eight—I decided that's what I wanted to do," he recalled.

Throughout high school he volunteered in veterinary practices

and worked on local farms, giving him more experience before completing his undergraduate and veterinary degrees at Cambridge. He was set on remaining in the U.K. and working as a dairy practitioner until his final year of veterinary school, when he got to know Dr. Hugh Townsend—now a professor emeritus at WCVM—who was completing sabbatical research at Cambridge. Townsend convinced Clark to travel to the U of S for an internship, which he did—the day of his graduation from Cambridge, in fact.

Following the internship, Clark returned to England, where he worked as a rural veterinarian for one more year. He then returned to Saskatchewan to complete his residency, followed by master's and PhD degrees in veterinary pharmacology. He joined the WCVM faculty in 2002.

In his own career, Clark said he has had his own share of incredible teachers that have instilled in him a zest for teaching and learning.



**Chris Clark, associate professor and associate dean academic at the WCVM.** LESLEY PORTER

"I'm very aware that in my life I'm continuing a tradition of what I've seen in some of my very best teachers," he said. "In that respect, it's paying on the great favour that was done to me."

Despite a full plate of responsibilities—including lectures, labs, research and clinical duties—Clark prioritizes his teaching and the time he spends with his students, who he

considers the best and brightest.

"It's really tough to get into vet school, so we have amazing students here," he said. "And watching them get enthused is really the best part about it."

Naturally, this is not his first time being recognized for teaching. In 2012, he received the Provost's College Award for Outstanding Teaching. He has also been awarded

the University of Saskatchewan Students' Union Teaching Excellence Award twice (2004-05 and 2015-16) and has received numerous teaching awards from colleagues and students alike within WCVM.

His collection of teaching awards is almost as expansive as his collection of bow ties—something he is also known for in the college.

"It started as a bit of a joke, but there is actually a reason behind it," he said with a chuckle. Prior to becoming an associate dean, Clark was responsible for infection control and biosafety in the college. He noted that the U.K. medical system had instituted a ban on doctors wearing traditional long ties in clinical settings.

"They recognize that they're a source of spreading infection," he explained. "So I started wearing a bow tie really as an element of demonstrating that point."

Additionally, he sees the benefit of not having a dangling tie, especially as a bovine veterinarian. "A lot of other stuff could get on my tie." ■



## *Celebrating Ron C.C. Cuming*

50 Years of Excellence at the College of Law

**Nov. 18-19, 2016 | Saskatoon, SK**

Join us as we celebrate Distinguished Professor Ron C.C. Cuming and his 50 years of contributions to the College of Law. The event will kick off with a reception on Friday evening followed by a full-day commercial law conference on Saturday.

### **Keynote & Reception**

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FREE. All are welcome.

### **Commercial Law Conference**

Saturday, Nov. 19, 2016  
8am-5pm, College of Law  
Cost: \$150 + GST

### **Online Guestbook**

Pass along a congratulatory message or share a favourite memory of Professor Cuming.



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# Welcome to the club

## Author Lawrence Hill is Arts and Science Book Club guest

COLLEEN MACPHERSON

Author Lawrence Hill admits he has “thousands of things to say” about his latest novel *The Illegal*, but as is good book-club etiquette, he will make sure others have a chance to talk as well.

In an interview from his home in Hamilton, Ont., Hill said he is looking forward to two College of Arts and Science Book Club events on campus Nov. 21—a talk and discussion about *The Illegal* at 1:30 pm, and a presentation entitled My Writing Life at 7:30 pm, both in Convocation Hall.

“I never make too many presumptions about whether people have read one page, or two pages, or all or none of the book,” he said, “so I won’t talk a lot myself. I prefer to go straight into a conversation” about his award-winning 2015 novel.

Set in the near future, *The Illegal* is the story of Keita Ali, a young boy born to run. Caught up in political turmoil that claims the life of his father in the invented country of Zantoroland, Ali parlays his running skill into an escape plan, only to find himself without documentation in the country of Freedom State, where the ruling party is pursuing a policy



Lawrence Hill

of deporting refugees.

With an obvious nod to the plight of displaced persons around the world, Hill weaves the issues of race, discrimination, identity and belonging into a plot that unfolds at a breathtaking clip. As he trains in secret and runs to elude capture and deportation, Ali finds himself running not only to save his own life but his sister’s life, too.

Hill said he was delighted to have been asked to participate in the book club. “I think it’s fantastic. It’s an honour to be read by students. You know, the books I read when I was 15 or 25 and that I loved are permanently embedded in my brain.”

He is also a staunch advocate for making room for fiction in all disciplines across campus, not just in English class.

“Literature is meant to excite our imaginations and provoke us. There is an absolutely compelling reason to include the occasional provocative and stirring novel in every class at a university, especially if the professor has an attitude that is worldly and interdisciplinary, and understands the various ways to excite someone about a subject.”

The same hold true for non-fiction works that fall outside the realm of academia. Referring to his 2013 social history *Blood: The Stuff of Life*, Hill asked, “if you’re studying medicine or biochemistry, why would you not be excited by a book that explores blood as a metaphor for identity? Why not be provoked in our imaginations and empathy by reading?”

His evening address about writing will be more personal, Hill said: a look at how he became a writer “and the missteps along the way.” He will also have a special message for young people in the audience about another important aspect of his world—volunteerism—

and the value of having “an engaged and exciting life.

“As students, we’re so preoccupied with degrees, marks, money and whether this university education will pay off that we can lose sight of some of the most beautiful things in life, like travelling and volunteering,” he said. “When you’re

young is a time when it’s possible—you don’t have to worry about a mortgage or a two-year-old—and rarely do you meet a volunteer who’s had a major international experience who returns with regrets.” ■

Colleen MacPherson is a Saskatoon-based freelance writer.

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## SASKATCHEWAN CONNECTION

It will be a homecoming of sorts when acclaimed author Lawrence Hill visits the University of Saskatchewan Nov. 21.

“I have this real sense of connection to Saskatchewan in my heart,” said Hill, who spent the summer of 1977 as a train operator for Canadian Pacific Railway in Gull Lake, Sask. Working the night shift,

Hill’s job was to pass, by hand and stick, messages to the engineers of the three or four freight trains that barreled through town without stopping each night.

To make extra money to pay for his next year at the University of British Columbia, Hill also wrote news stories for the Gull Lake Advance. He was paid 25 cents per column inch,

“so I wrote the longest stories I could. I wrote all night looking out into the darkness and watching the sun come up. It was an incredibly rich and unusual summer that marked me forever.”

The short story Hill wrote based on his summer in Gull Lake, entitled *Meet You at the Door*, was published in *The Walrus* in 2012.



# COMING EVENTS

## SEMINARS / LECTURES

### Department of Psychology's monthly colloquium series

Nov. 15, 3–4:30 pm, Arts 263. Professor Jacqueline Cummine, University of Alberta, will give a talk entitled, 'From Print to Speech: A Framework for Evaluating Basic Reading Process'. Members of the university community and the general public are welcome to attend this presentation, which is part of the Department of Psychology's monthly colloquium series. For more information, please contact Peter Grant at 306-966-6675 or via email: peter.grant@usask.ca.

### Dr. Keith Crocker Memorial Lecture

Nov. 24, 5–6 pm, Gordon Oakes Red Bear Student Centre. Dr. Don Wilson, clinical associate professor at the University of Calgary's Cumming School of Medicine, will be giving his lecture on the topic of Aboriginal women and children's health. A member of the Heiltsuk Nation from the north central coast of British Columbia, Dr. Wilson is one of Canada's first Aboriginal obstetricians/gynecologists. His First Nations ancestry also includes connections with the Haisla and Kitasoo tribes on the B.C. coast. He is currently practicing general obstetrics and gynecology in Calgary. Dr. Wilson has been described as compassionate, dedicated and

a tireless advocate for advancing the health of First Nations, Inuit and Métis. This is an open lecture and all interested are invited to attend.

## COURSES / WORKSHOPS

### Fall Conversational Language Classes

For more information, visit [learnlanguages.usask.ca](http://learnlanguages.usask.ca) or call 306-966-4355 or 5539. Multilingual Conversational Language Classes from Sept. 19–Nov. 28:

- French levels 1–8: \$220 (GST exempt)
- Spanish levels 1–8: \$231 (GST included)
- Japanese levels 1 and 2 \$231 (GST included)
- Japanese for the Traveller \$257.25 (Manual and GST included)
- German levels 1, 2 and 6 \$231 (GST included)
- Italian levels 1–4 \$231 (GST included)
- Portuguese level 1 \$231 (GST included)
- Cree level 1 \$241.50 (Manual and GST included)

Textbooks and workbooks are extra unless otherwise indicated.

### Spanish Turista Weekend Workshop for Low Intermediate Speakers

Nov. 18, 6:30 pm, 225 Williams Building. This program is ideally suited to individuals who have done previous course work or extended stays in a Spanish-speaking country, and who need better Spanish-speaking skills for vacation or business needs.

- Practice speaking Spanish in traveller situations (airport, customs, taxi, hotel, restaurant, markets, etc.).
- Pair work, group projects and discussions.
- Comfortable learning atmosphere led by Patty Corkal, a Native Spanish speaker from Chili with more than 20 years teaching experience.
- Includes manual, beverages and tapas (Friday evening), Saturday and Sunday lunch and certificate upon completion.

For more information, visit [learnlanguages.usask.ca](http://learnlanguages.usask.ca).

### Mindfulness Meditation Full-day Retreat

Nov. 18, 9 am–4:30 pm, Diefenbaker Centre. Did you know that mindfulness meditation can improve quality of life, decrease stress, improve your attention and promote well-being? It involves being fully aware of one's own thoughts, emotions and sensations, without attaching any judgment to them. Jeanne Corrigan will lead a full-day Mindfulness Workshop: An Introduction to Mindfulness Based Stress Reduction. Cost is \$100 and is open to all U of S employees and students. Eligible employees may claim this workshop as part of their flexible spending credit. For more information, email

[wellnessresources@usask.ca](mailto:wellnessresources@usask.ca) or visit [working.usask.ca](http://working.usask.ca).

### Edwards School of Business Executive Education

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

- Oct. 12–March 18, The Masters Certificate in Project Management - Saskatoon
- Oct. 13–March 11, The Masters Certificate in Project Management - Regina
- Oct. 18–Nov. 15, Leadership Development Program - Saskatoon
- Nov. 21–23, Digital and Social Media Program: Communication, Engagement and Advertising - Saskatoon
- Nov. 17–18, Business Sales and Strategy - Saskatoon - NEW
- Nov. 21–25, Certified Coach Training Program - Saskatoon
- Nov. 29 and Dec. 6, The Powerful Presenter in You - Saskatoon
- Nov. 30, Emotional Intelligence (EQ) in Team Leadership - Saskatoon - NEW
- Dec. 7–9, June 22, 2017, Empowering Women Leaders Program - Saskatoon - NEW
- Dec. 7–8, Business Writing and Grammar Workout - Saskatoon
- Dec. 12–14, What the Non-Financial Manager Needs to know about Financial and Managerial Accounting - Saskatoon

## THE ARTS

### Sisters United: An exhibit on women's suffrage in Saskatchewan

Daily until March 14, 2017, 9 am–8 pm, Diefenbaker Canada Centre. Sisters United commemorates the centennial of women winning the right to vote in 1916. Explore compelling stories of suffragist leaders who laid the foundation for women's rights in Saskatchewan.

## MISCELLANY

### Cooking With Pulses

Nov. 24, 5–7 pm, Marquis Culinary Centre. Roll up your sleeves and join Culinary Services executive chef James McFarland

for an evening in the kitchen. You will work in small groups to prepare delicious recipes from scratch using highly nutritious pulse crops. At the end, the entire group will sit down for a family-style meal. To register visit [bit.ly/2eS19YC](http://bit.ly/2eS19YC); the cost is \$25. For more information, contact [wellnessresources@usask.ca](mailto:wellnessresources@usask.ca) or call 306-966-4580.

### Arts and Science Book Club

Nov. 21, Convocation Hall. The College of Arts and Science will welcome Lawrence Hill, award-winning author of *The Illegal* and *The Book of Negroes*, at two free public events this fall.

- 1:30–3 pm, Book Club: *The Illegal*, talk, discussion and coffee
- 7:30 pm, My Writing Life, talk and book signing

For more information visit [artsandscience.usask.ca/college/bookclub](http://artsandscience.usask.ca/college/bookclub).

### Stress: A Way of Life or a Fact of Life

Dec. 1, 1–2 pm, Agriculture 1E79. Discover tools that will help you understand more about stress, identify your stressors and learn ways to cope with and manage high stress levels. To register visit [bit.ly/2dFwLim](http://bit.ly/2dFwLim). For more information, contact Wellness Resources at 306-966-4580 or email [wellness.resources@usask.ca](mailto:wellness.resources@usask.ca).

### Building Strong Relationships with Your Adult Children

Dec. 12, 11 am–12 pm, Admin Building C280. Discover how to improve your relationship with your adult children including learning how to manage personal relationships, financial boundaries and how to navigate their marriage and their children. To register visit [bit.ly/2dx9tiU](http://bit.ly/2dx9tiU). For more information, contact Wellness Resources at 306-966-4580 or email [wellness.resources@usask.ca](mailto:wellness.resources@usask.ca).

### Sunday Mass at STM Chapel

Each Sunday until Oct. 22, 2017, 11 am–noon, join the campus ministry team for the celebration of the Eucharist! Come worship God in a welcoming environment with people from the campus community. For more information visit [stmcollege.ca](http://stmcollege.ca).

**Next OCN: Friday, Dec. 9**  
**Deadline: Tuesday, Nov. 29**

**STREET FOOD FROM AROUND THE WORLD**

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STREET FOOD FROM AROUND THE WORLD

| No. | Issue Date       | Deadline Date   |
|-----|------------------|-----------------|
|     |                  |                 |
| 5   | January 13, 2017 | January 3, 2017 |
| 6   | February 10      | January 31      |
| 7   | March 10         | February 28     |
| 8   | April 14         | April 4         |

# Recreation and reputation

FROM PAGE 5

human kinetics at the University of Windsor and his PhD in educational leadership from the University of Calgary. “When you look at the amount of sedentary behaviour in society, inactivity, obesity and related chronic diseases, it’s scary.

“I think the College of Kinesiology has a role to play to help reverse that trend and to inspire physical activity and the health benefits will follow. I am a real big proponent of walking meetings, for example, and taking the stairs rather than an elevator. Those kinds of little changes in our behaviour can make all the difference.”

The first step for London is developing relationships with his new colleagues in the college and building on their strengths.

“Being new to the university and new to the College of Kinesiology, my first priority is to get to know the people, the faculty, staff and students, and gain a greater understanding of their work and see how I can support and strengthen

that,” he said. “What I do know, and what drew me to the position, was that the college has a great reputation, a real national reputation. I know that they conduct world-class research and have great academic and service programs, within the university and the external community as well.”

As for his main priorities, London points to the upcoming accreditation process, building enrolment, advancing research and exploring possible new programming in the college.

“One thing that is on our agenda this year with our undergraduate program is we’re up for renewal for accreditation and I anticipate that we will move through that with flying colours,” said London, who is also a big proponent of the university’s Recreation Services programs as champions of physical activity on campus. “I think there is also an opportunity to grow enrolment in our graduate programs and there’s some new program opportunities at

the master’s level. So there won’t be a shortage of things to do.”

London is also excited about the future of Huskie Athletics, which features more than 400 varsity student-athletes competing on 15 teams in eight sports. Huskie Athletics is now guided by a new 11-member Board of Trustees—chaired by U of S alumnus and member of the Board of Governors David Dubé and featuring the likes of former Canadian Olympian Diane Jones Konihowski—drawing on expertise across campus and in the community.

“I think it’s an amazing opportunity,” said London. “When you look at the people who are on that Board of Trustees, we are talking about high-level people who are very bright, intelligent and accomplished and it’s going to be outstanding. Huskie Athletics is already a force to be reckoned with, but when you look at what this board is going to bring, it’s a great opportunity to really raise the profile of the program.” ■

# Setting the stage for the next provost

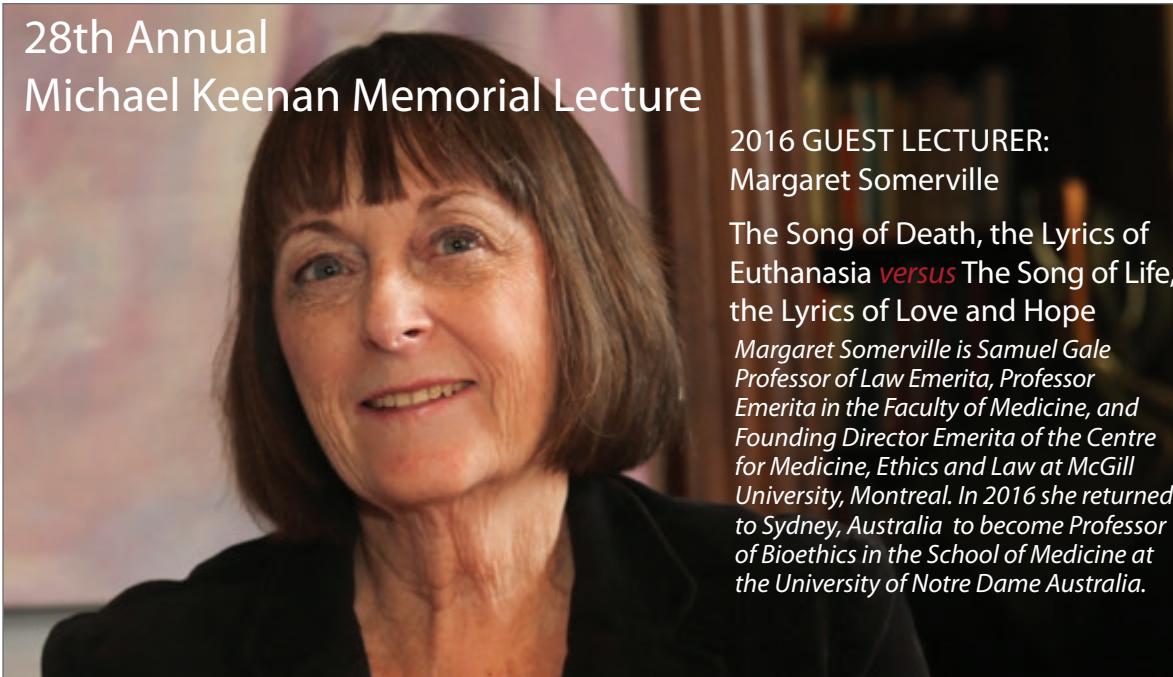
FROM PAGE 4

warm and move the papers around, or you could overdo it and act like you will be here for a long time and inherit the consequences of all of the decisions. I’m aiming for the middle but will probably err more on the active side, because I know the position and that’s kind of who I am.”

An example of that, Atkinson explained, is opening a conversation on the standards of promotion

and tenure, which were last revisited when he introduced them during his first stint as provost. He said he wants to examine them and make “sure the standards fit with our ambitions. The permanent provost can have the benefit of those conversations. I want to leave the position in a state where the new person can walk in and feel like they can accomplish something on day one.” ■

## 28th Annual Michael Keenan Memorial Lecture



2016 GUEST LECTURER:  
Margaret Somerville

The Song of Death, the Lyrics of Euthanasia *versus* The Song of Life, the Lyrics of Love and Hope

*Margaret Somerville is Samuel Gale Professor of Law Emerita, Professor Emerita in the Faculty of Medicine, and Founding Director Emerita of the Centre for Medicine, Ethics and Law at McGill University, Montreal. In 2016 she returned to Sydney, Australia to become Professor of Bioethics in the School of Medicine at the University of Notre Dame Australia.*



ST. THOMAS MORE COLLEGE  
UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

Thursday, November 24, 7:30 pm.  
Fr. O’Donnell Auditorium, STM  
[stmcollege.ca](http://stmcollege.ca)

The annual Keenan Lecture honours the memory and achievements of STM’s first Dean, Dr. Michael Keenan.

The College of Arts & Science presents

## Lawrence Hill

Join us for two FREE public events

### Monday, Nov. 21

Convocation Hall, Peter MacKinnon Building

University of Saskatchewan

## Book Club

Talk, discussion & coffee

1:30–3:00 p.m.

## My Writing Life

Talk & book signing

7:30 p.m.

Learn more or livestream *My Writing Life* at  
[artsandscience.usask.ca/bookclub](http://artsandscience.usask.ca/bookclub)

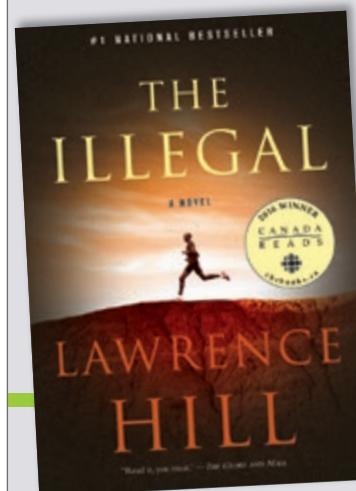


Photo by  
Lisa Sakulensky



UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN  
College of Arts and Science  
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*My Writing Life* is presented by the MFA in Writing Program and the Dept. of English



There are fascinating statues, artifacts and fun objects located all over the University of Saskatchewan campus. Get to know them a little better with this year's *On Campus News* back page feature: Interviews with inanimate objects. If you know an inanimate object, tell us about it at [news@usask.ca](mailto:news@usask.ca).



## Busy beaver

**LOCATION:  
ENGINEERING BUILDING,  
FIRST FLOOR**

### ■ Tell me a bit about yourself.

Well, I don't really have a name, because I'm a beaver. But I'm the unofficial mascot of the College of Engineering. For a long time, beavers have had an affiliation with the professional practice of engineering.

### ■ Why is that?

As you know, beavers are very resourceful, industrious animals. We love to build. Just like engineers, we can take raw materials, like branches and twigs, and—with equal parts brain and brawn—make sound structures like dams, canals and lodges. These structures protect us from predators and may even benefit the surrounding ecosystems.

### ■ How long have you been here?

While no one in the College of Engineering knows exactly how long I've been here, my affiliation with the college goes way back, to 1934. I was incorporated into the college coat of arms that year by A.L.C. Atkinson, a former civil engineering professor.

### ■ Where else can we find you?

Besides semi-aquatic regions in North America, my main

affiliation is with Canada, as I was designated the country's official animal in 1975. My mug is everywhere: the nickel, the Hudson's Bay Company coat of arms and logos such as Roots Canada, Parks Canada and Canadian Pacific Railway, to name but a few.

A cousin of mine—his name is Sapper Bentley F. Beaver—is also the official mascot of 25 Engineer Squadron, a unit of the Canadian Military Engineers based out of Alberta. He has travelled around the world with the unit, ensuring the safety of the troops.

### ■ What is your dental hygiene routine?

My incisors are self-sharpening and keep growing throughout my lifetime. So as long as I keep gnawing, I am a happy rodent. I need to have sharp teeth to cut through so much wood—up to 15 centimetres in about three seconds!

### ■ Are you really as busy as people say you are?

Maybe not as busy, but definitely efficient. Work smart, not hard—that's my motto!

Information provided by  
Patrick Hayes, U of S Archives.