The University of Saskatchewan is joining in Canada’s celebrations this year to commemorate the 150th anniversary of confederation. We take a look at some of the major events, anniversaries and new initiatives taking place across campus as the university takes part in the nationwide Canada 150 festivities.
U of S prepares for next planning cycle

John Rigby, the interim associate provost, is leading the institutional planning and assessment portfolio.

It is early days yet, but all signs are pointing to a change in style and process when it comes to building the University of Saskatchewan’s next plan for the future.

“Developing our new plan is really an extension of the mission, vision and values consultations,” explained John Rigby, the interim associate provost leading the institutional planning and assessment portfolio. “We want to capture and focus on the key elements from that process in this next planning cycle.”

Using the mission, vision and values document—approved last year—as a starting point signals a shift in the development of the institutional plan, said Michael Atkinson, interim provost and vice-president academic.

“As the process matures, so will the resulting document mature,” he said. “Our previous plans were integrated in the sense that they were compiled from unit plans with some additional institutional nuances. There will still be strong connections in what we do, and plan to do, across campus. But this approach integrates by creating a common starting point for moving forward.”

Atkinson stressed the impact on the university of the recent provincial budget does not affect its efforts to look to the future because planning must drive budget decisions, not the other way around.

Rigby said using the mission, vision and values as the basis for the new institutional plan is a change that goes hand-in-hand with a shift in attitude toward the process over the past 15 years.

The university’s first planning effort in particular was met with some initial resistance, he said, not only to the idea of planning itself but also “to the notion we should be deciding things in advance.” The second iteration saw the focus shift to content, while the third resulted in “hardly any discussion. That was an indication that perhaps it’s time to rethink how we’re planning.”

Rigby expects the new document will have “quite a different flavour” than those of the past. “I expect it will be visually much more interesting. It will be shorter than previous plans and there will be a lot more thought given to how we’re communicating.”

Part of that communication will be to remind people of the mission, vision and values process that included extensive consultation, and how setting goals for the future is the natural next step.

“The new institutional plan is in reality a long-term expression of our mission, vision and values, and in some ways that’s a journey without end,” Rigby said.

President Peter Stoicheff often refers to significant themes that emerge from the mission, vision and values—connectivity, sustainability, diversity and creativity—and Rigby said all four resonate with the wider community.

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

Kaplan Chair in music created

The University of Saskatchewan announced April 2 the creation of the David L. Kaplan Chair in Music. The chair was made possible by a $2-million gift from U of S music alumni Xiaoping Xu and his wife Ling Chen, which is the largest single donation from alumni in the history of the College of Arts and Science. The announcement was made at the Department of Music’s awards ceremony.

SENS tackles renewable energy

The School of Environment and Sustainability at the U of S is expanding in two areas—aquatic toxicology and renewable energy for remote and Indigenous communities. The new Consortium in Renewable Energy for Indigenous, Northern and Remote Communities is the first in the world to bring together expertise to add renewable energy to the North.

VIDO-InterVac fights Zika virus

The Vaccine and Infectious Disease Organization-International Vaccine Centre (VIDO-InterVac) at the U of S has secured $700,000 for research to investigate how the Zika virus causes disease and to test new drugs and vaccines for prevention. The research is being led by Dr. Uladzimir Karniychuk, a research scientist and veterinarian who joined VIDO-InterVac in early 2016.

Twenty years for U of S conference

The University of Saskatchewan held the 20th annual Breaking the Silence conference—On Issues of Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity, at the Edwards School of Business on March 17-18. Sponsored by the College of Education, it is the longest standing conference of its kind in Canada, featuring guest speakers, workshops, performances and annual award presentations.
The University of Saskatchewan is facing the largest percentage cut in provincial funding in the institution’s 110-year history.

While university administration had been preparing for a likely reduction in its 2017-18 operating funding in the March 22 provincial budget, the magnitude of an unprecedented 5.6 per cent cut for the U of S—amounting to close to $18 million—was eerily close to a worst-case scenario.

However, U of S President Peter Stoicheff said the budget cuts will not define the university or keep it from moving forward as a member of the group of U15 research institutions in the country.

“This will be damaging, but we will manage the potential impacts this has on our campus community—our students, faculty and staff,” Stoicheff stated. “We will need time to figure this out, but as we always have, we will find a way to stay the course.”

Dealing with the larger than expected budget cut will present significant challenges for the university. But Interim Provost and Vice-President Academic Michael Atkinson said the Provost’s Committee on Integrated Planning is moving forward with a plan to present to the Board of Governors at the next meeting in June to reduce budget allocations across campus, while also asking to run a deficit for 2017-18.

“The reduction to all post-secondary institutions is substantial, even relative to the reductions of other parts of the provincial budget,” said Atkinson, noting that the province has also withheld an annual $20 million provincial commitment to the College of Medicine that the university will again have to cover from its base funding. “But because of the scenario-building that we had done, we had prepared for what turned out to be a worst-case scenario. This budget is unwelcome in the extreme and will force painful reductions to our activities, but it will not take us off the path that we are on.”

Atkinson also addressed concerns on campus about potential workforce reductions, program changes or tuition increases, as a result of the budget cuts. While the board ultimately makes final decisions regarding tuition, Atkinson said the university will not be recommending any additional increases for the 2017-18 academic year.

Atkinson is also not anticipating short-term academic program cuts, since the university is committed to a long-term approach to planning.

“Academic programs are council’s decision and typically those changes to academic programs are not real money savers,” he said. “They really are, and should be, responsive to academic needs and demands and to changes in disciplines, rather than short-term financial decisions. So I don’t see immediate changes to existing programs.”

Atkinson also emphasized that workforce changes, in particular layoffs, will be a last-case scenario, although it’s possible that some colleges, schools and units may elect to temporarily not fill some vacancies as one way to deal with the shortfall.

“Involuntary layoffs, for example, are not our first choice, by any means,” he said. “And if we can find ways in which we can reduce our overall workforce by other methods, then we will choose to do that and only laterally will we be looking for other kinds of solutions.”

While the university is actively exploring alternative revenue sources and cost-saving measures on campus, college and school allocations will be reduced by an average of five per cent, using the Transparent Activity-Based Budget System (TABBS) of linking resources to strategic priorities. The colleges of Agriculture and Bioresources (11 per cent) as well as Engineering (9.6 per cent) will face the largest cuts, although Atkinson said their reserves will help to somewhat cushion the blow.

University support units, which have had significant cuts in recent years, will face further reductions averaging three per cent.

The funding cut follows a recent economic impact study that confirmed the U of S contributes close to $1.3 billion—or about 1.6 per cent—to Saskatchewan’s economy each year. That regularly ranks the U of S as one of the top two universities out of 97 in the country, in terms of economic impact in our region.

“Our university is a major economic driver in Saskatchewan and contributes more economic benefit to its region than almost any other university in the entire country,” Stoicheff stated. “Continued reductions to our university will jeopardize the long-term economic future of our province.”
Indigenous staff members prepare for May gathering

Elizabeth Duret is dedicated to building a vibrant community of Indigenous faculty and staff at the University of Saskatchewan.

On Monday, May 1, the U of S will celebrate its family of Aboriginal employees by hosting a one-day spring gathering at Wanuskewin Heritage Park, led by Duret through the Human Resources Division.

“We want to bring people together to let them know that we are all there to support one another and it will be a great opportunity for people to make new connections,” said Duret, the university’s inclusion and diversity consultant. “I think any time that we can get our community together and share our journeys, our stories and our shared experiences as Aboriginal people, that builds a stronger community and an environment that we can thrive in.”

The first-time event, open to all self-declared Indigenous employees of the U of S, is entitled The Strength Within and will feature discussions, presentations and informal networking, celebrating accomplishments, honouring contributions, and promoting cultural connections and identity.

Elders from the community will also be involved in the gathering, while Dr. Evan Adams, chief medical officer for the First Nations Health Authority, will serve as the keynote speaker.

“There will be plenty of opportunities for informal discussions, for people to make connections and help reinforce the idea that I am not alone,” said Duret.

While the university has made great strides in attracting record numbers of Aboriginal students to campus, there is still plenty of work to do to in terms of hiring Indigenous employees in order to meet the provincial target of 12 per cent of the total workforce. Duret, who is Métis, said a key component of that priority is building support systems across campus in order to retain our current staff and faculty.

“We want to build our own internal Indigenous community and that takes more Indigenous faculty, more Indigenous staff members,” said Vice-Provost of Teaching and Learning Patti McDougall, who helps oversee Aboriginal initiatives across campus.

“We’ve had success in hiring both staff and faculty and we want to build on that success by creating more role models so that when our Indigenous students come to campus, they see themselves in our people, our places and our spaces.”

For Duret, that means hiring First Nations, Métis and Inuit employees is only the first step. Retention is just as critical to building a vibrant and growing Indigenous workforce for the future.

“We have to look at our retention efforts so that once we get people here, we want to make sure that they feel welcomed, that they feel celebrated and included and that they work in an inclusive environment,” she said. “It’s a journey and as long as we are taking steps forward, that’s what’s important.”

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Nolan coming to campus

Former National Hockey League coach of the year Ted Nolan is coming to campus this month to speak with senior leaders, faculty, student and staff.

On Monday, April 24, Nolan will spend the day at the U of S, serving as the keynote speaker in a morning forum with senior administration as well as Indigenous community leaders. He will also meet with students and staff in Huskie Athletics and the College of Kinesiology to discuss Aboriginal athlete development, and later with the Human Resources Division and the U of S Aboriginal Advisors Circle.

Nolan will cap his day on campus with a speaker’s forum address in the evening that is open to everyone at the Gordon Oakes Red Bear Student Centre, followed by an autograph and photograph session.

A member of Ontario’s Garden River First Nation, he is a leader in the Indigenous community, a passionate advocate for Aboriginal youth, and a well-known sports figure who won the 1997 Jack Adams Award as NHL coach of the year with the Buffalo Sabres.

“I am grateful for the opportunities that hockey has provided me in my life, but most importantly the opportunity to serve as a role model to help inspire Indigenous people across the country,” said the 58-year-old Nolan. “We have so much more that we can accomplish as communities and we need to take pride and draw strength in our history and heritage as we build for the future.”
U of S builds on foundation for reconciliation

For Dallas Fiddler, it’s vital that the University of Saskatchewan is aware of the issues Aboriginal students face just to make coming to class every day a reality.

As president of the U of S Indigenous Students’ Council, Fiddler is uniquely positioned to understand those struggles better than most. And he’s hopeful that the university is taking another step forward in understanding and reconciliation.

“The university is leading in this area,” he said. “When you’re leading in this idea of reconciliation, you’re moving into the uncomfortable. When we’re moving into the uncomfortable, we’re bound to expand the narrative that the people of Saskatchewan may have.”

Leading means forging new paths, and Fiddler is confident initiatives like the recent U of S Building Reconciliation Forum mark a bold stride forward. He described the March 7 event positively and hopes it has brought to light issues of importance to Indigenous students, such as a need for more scholarships and the challenge of leaving home to attend university in a new city.

“We’re moving in a direction that’s going to be very positive for future generations in Saskatchewan,” he said. “First Nations, Métis and Inuit are one of the fastest growing demographics in Saskatchewan, and I think the institution that we have here is going to be a leader and other institutions are going to follow suit.”

Plans are to make the U of S Building Reconciliation Forum an annual event. It is intended to give feedback both for the university from the Indigenous community and in the reverse direction, providing a platform to discuss initiatives on campus.

“It’s about speaking to what we’re thinking about in the College of Law or in arts and science or any of the six colleges that spoke in the teaching and learning session at the forum,” said Patti McDougall, vice-provost teaching and learning.

McDougall said the forum is vital when a topic as important as reconciliation is concerned. He knows that no true change comes easily, but he’s happy that his university is leading the charge.

“I think it shows the progress and the steps that the U of S is taking toward reconciliation,” he said. “We seem to be one of the first institutions to be taking major steps, and along with those movements we are going to face some challenges and barriers because we’re new to this. But that’s expected.”

First Nations, Métis and Inuit are one of the fastest growing demographics in Saskatchewan, and I think the institution that we have here is going to be a leader and other institutions are going to follow suit.

Dallas Fiddler

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$90,000 raised on One Day for Students

LINDSAY ROYALE

This year’s One Day for Students annual fundraising events raised more than $90,000 in donations, the highest total ever.

The fourth annual campaign to support students at all colleges and schools in the University of Saskatchewan raised the record total from 450 donors over 24 hours on March 9, with participation from staff, faculty, students, alumni and community members.

Of the $90,000 raised, $45,000 was generously donated by Professor Emeritus Kay Nasser and his wife Dora as part of their ongoing commitment to match gifts to the campaign. This has been the Nassers’ fourth year matching donations to two funds—the President’s Student Experience Fund and the Nasser Family Emergency Trust Fund. This year, however, the Nassers also decided to match the funds raised by each of the participating colleges: medicine, dentistry, engineering, and arts and science.

Nasser, one of Saskatoon’s leading property developers and philanthropists, said he is passionate about being the major contributor to One Day for Students because of the support he received during his own experience as a student.

“If I didn’t get help at many stages when I was a student, I wouldn’t have done as well as I have in my life,” Nasser said.

The Nassers’ support is important to the many students who rely on the funds raised to help them pursue once-in-a-lifetime experiences outside of the classroom, or during times of unexpected financial hardship.

Kehan Fu, president of the University of Saskatchewan Students’ Union, described the impact of the Nasser Family Emergency Trust Fund, which provides critical funding for students who are faced with unexpected financial burdens.

“A trust (fund) embodies a relationship of belief, faith and the ability to do something greater,” he said during the kickoff event in Place Riel.

Kiara Calladine, president of the Northern Administration Students Association (NASA), spoke on behalf of their student-run volunteer group, which is supported by the President’s Student Experience Fund. NASA helps Northern students transition to post-secondary education through support services such as tutoring and laptop lending, as well as their annual conference, which introduces high school students to the U of S experience.

Calladine said they are thankful for the resources that make their programs possible.

“The President’s Student Experience Fund is the only way we can bring everyone together,” she said.

Meanwhile, Alisha Esmail, owner of Road Coffee, offered free drinks in the student hub in the hopes that students and staff would donate to the campaign what they would normally spend on a cup of coffee.

“I believe our generation wants to give back and make a difference, but I think sometimes we’re unsure of how,” Esmail said.

“One Day for Students creates a platform for individuals to engage in philanthropy, but also represents a bigger picture of how we should be living our lives.”

Lindsay Royale is a communications co-ordinator in University Relations.

Sherry Guan was one of the U of S students happy to help out with the One Day For Students initiative.
Moving forward: SPH turns 10

Cat Bonner

The past decade has brought both triumph and tribulation to the School of Public Health (SPH).

Now, with a new action plan and a birthday celebration in the works, the school is focusing on the future.

“We’re in a good place right now. We’ve started on a new path of transformation to a specialized school of public health and centre of research excellence,” explained Dr. George Mutwiri, who joined the school in 2009 and has served as interim executive director since July 2015. “We’re rebuilding our reputation, and we intend to make an impact locally and globally.”

An external review in 2015 and subsequent University of Saskatchewan task force analysis, recommended that the school develop specific goals and a refreshed vision and mission to achieve the change it needed. The school decided to combine these revised elements in an action plan, which would guide it in its next steps.

The process of creating the plan re-connected the school’s faculty with students, alumni, U of S leaders and community partners when they came together at a consultation session in April 2016.

Mutwiri said the response was extremely encouraging.

“I am grateful to those who helped us develop our action plan,” he said. “It was heartening to see that so many people are still invested in the school and believe we have an important part to play in serving our local and international public health communities.”

In addition to new objectives, the plan has refocused the school’s efforts on some original mandates. Rebuilding community relationships, revitalizing research and increasing Indigenous initiatives are top priorities.

The SPH was established as one of three graduate schools at the U of S in 2007, principally to enhance graduate learning at the university, unite diverse health sciences teaching and research under a single interdisciplinary unit, and to provide education and public health solutions via community outreach.

The school’s foundational Master of Public Health (MPH) program has been popular from the outset, and is the first public health program outside Europe to be accredited by European body APHEA (Agency for Public Health Education Accreditation).

In 2016, the school diversified the MPH program by introducing an innovative thesis option, which gives students the opportunity to do research and write a thesis concurrently to completing the professional degree.

The school’s thesis-based programs in biostatistics, epidemiology, and vaccinology and immunotherapeutics, along with a number of special case doctoral programs, have also created unique research opportunities for students and faculty. Together, these programs have helped the school’s student population flourish from 20 to well over 200. To date, close to 400 students have graduated from the SPH.

Turning 10 signifies a new era for the SPH, as it sets its sights on future success.

Plans are underway to develop a PhD program in applied public health, and a specialized Indigenous health stream of the MPH program. The school is also planning a celebratory gala event later in the year.

“We are looking forward to bringing people together to mark a decade of achievement,” Mutwiri said. “This is an exciting time to be at the school and we look forward to a very bright future.”

Cat Bonner is the communications officer in the School of Public Health.
The U of S will hold an array of events highlighting three key university themes—diversity, connectivity and sustainability—as part of the nation-wide Canada 150 festivities.

“Canada 150 is about ideas, dialogue and celebration, as well as looking back at our legacy and looking ahead to the Canada we’re creating for 2067,” said Karen Chad, vice-president of research and the executive sponsor of the U of S Canada 150 Project. “This initiative is focused on celebrating the many ways that our faculty, students, staff and alumni have contributed to Canada throughout our 110-year (university) history and continue to shape the country and change the world.”

In addition to the events planned as part of the celebrations, a number of new scholarships have been created. There are 25 scholarships valued at $3,000 each for U of S students studying abroad in 2017-18 (13 graduate and 12 undergraduate) and three scholarships valued at $5,000 each for inbound international undergraduate students studying at overseas Canadian curriculum high schools who are applying to arts and science, edwards or engineering. A one-year international graduate student fellowship has also been established, to act as an ambassador for the university’s study abroad initiatives to encourage international study.

Patti McDougall, vice-provost of teaching and learning, said these scholarship opportunities are another example of U of S efforts to foster global citizens.

“We’re showcasing Canada, both in terms of those who are coming here to study and our own Canadian students who are going abroad,” McDougall said. “When somebody comes from a different country to study with us, they’re helping to internationalize our learning environment. When we’re able to send one of our students to study abroad, when they return we are also internationalizing our environment. In some ways, we’re providing these students once-in-a-lifetime opportunities for personal growth.”

Special events include a visit this fall by former Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien—to co-ordinated by U of S Chancellor Roy Romanow—to take part in a public discussion on Canada’s future and a panel session on the future of health care.

The U of S has also partnered with Indspire, an Indigenous-led charity that seeks long-term growth in Aboriginal education, to bring its Cross Canada Youth Laureate Tour to campus on May 30. The event will feature a panel discussion in which local Indspire Awards laureates will engage in dialogue with students, educators, parents and the community about the importance of education.

Chad said a goal of the U of S Canada 150 celebrations is to give the university community an opportunity to reflect on the country in which they live and to consider what they want the future to bring for the nation and the university.

“We’re asking our community to ask themselves ‘What kind of Canada do you want to see in 50 years?’” she said.
Family reunion

U of S professor’s Sixties Scoop film to feature at Hot Docs Festival

HENRYTYE GLAZEBROOK

As a child of adoption, Tasha Hubbard knows what it’s like to see a reflection of yourself in a complete stranger.

Hubbard marvelled at the four siblings at the centre of her new documentary, Birth of a Family, as the grown men and women were reunited for the first time since childhood. She watched them survey each other’s faces, finding shades of their own, and remembered her experience meeting her half-sisters and half-brothers.

“It was interesting to see that moment where they’re comparing—‘We have the same eyebrows’ or ‘We have the same smile’—because I knew that feeling of recognizing yourself in someone,” said Hubbard, an assistant professor of English at the University of Saskatchewan.

“When you’re a foster kid or you’ve been adopted into a family, you don’t get that. You don’t get to see yourself in others, and so that moment is really powerful. That joy in seeing elements of yourself in someone else stayed with me. It’s a physical symbol of the connection you have.”

The four siblings featured in Birth of a Family are products of the Sixties Scoop, the Canada-wide practice of taking Indigenous children from their families and placing them with foster programs or putting them up for adoption. The process, which began in the 1950s and continued into the 1980s, displaced countless people.

Birth of a Family began with Betty Ann Adam, one of the four people the film follows and a reporter with the Saskatoon StarPhoenix, who approached Hubbard as a collaborator early on in the process. The film was funded by the National Film Board (NFB) of Canada, which will feature it in its Canada 150 anniversary tour, and will have its world premiere screening on May 2 as a part of the prestigious Hot Docs Film Festival in Toronto.

Hubbard sees its inclusion in the NFB’s Canada 150 tour as an opportunity to explore and evaluate some of the country’s dark chapters.

“Canada is featured in the film in interesting ways. The siblings are coming to terms with what Canada decided on their behalf and, rightly so, they’re not happy with the decisions made,” she said. “I think it’s important for this film because it’s telling a chapter of Canadian history that people aren’t aware of. I think it complicates Canadians’ visions of themselves as benevolent, as always welcoming, as doing the right thing, because Canada has done so much wrong.”

For Hubbard, the idea of bringing together this family was immediately attractive based on her own experiences re-entering a culture that she had been removed from.

“I know what it’s like to not know my language, which is something that they talk about in the film,” she said. “I know what it’s like to feel that sense of unfamiliarity when I first started coming back to my community. You don’t know how to belong. It doesn’t matter if you’re given up or taken, it’s still a similar experience.”

Hubbard’s hope is that the film will be seen not as a definitive text on the Sixties Scoop, but as an entry point to greater learning and discussion about the history of Canada, its harsh realities and how those moments continue to ripple into modern day.

“I think of documentary as presenting a story, but also opening a door to an issue and inviting people to learn more about it,” she said. “It’s important to see that history lives on and that we’re dealing with its legacies in our presence.”

It’s important to see that history lives on and that we’re dealing with its legacies in our presence.”

Tasha Hubbard

The New Institutional Plan

Open Forums

The next iteration of our university’s institutional planning process has begun, and we are looking for your input. This is an important time as we create a new plan to guide our university over the next several years. This plan, like our earlier plans, will help establish priorities, align our efforts and guide our decision making. It will reflect our identity as captured in the recently adopted Mission, Vision and Values statement, convey our broad aspirations, and will lay out a set of specific goals for which we will be collectively accountable.

You are invited to attend either of the Open Forums. An overview of the planning process will be provided, followed by discussion on the plan themes and goals.
Willoughby named dean of Edwards School of Business

Keith Willoughby won't have far to move when he begins his new role at the University of Saskatchewan.

Currently serving as interim dean of the Edwards School of Business at the U of S, Willoughby will remove the interim tag when he officially takes over the position for a five-year term beginning July 1.

“I have long seen the potential of this school and am thrilled to be selected to lead Edwards faculty, staff and students as dean,” said Willoughby, who was appointed to the interim role in July of 2016 to take over from Daphne Taras, who served six years as Edwards dean.

“It is a vibrant, engaged school that is creating the next generation of business professionals that are second to none and in high demand after graduation.”

Willoughby earned his commerce degree from the U of S back in 1990 before moving on to complete his master's at the University of British Columbia and his PhD at the University of Calgary. He first joined the faculty at the Edwards School of Business in 1997 as an assistant professor before accepting a teaching position at Bucknell University in Lewisburg, Pa. He returned to the U of S in 2005 as an associate professor and took on the role of associate dean in 2011.

“It is an exciting time for the school as we continue to finalize accreditation through the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business, and build and advance our research reputation in the province, the country and the world,” said Willoughby.

Willoughby is a renowned researcher with extensive experience in health-care process improvement and a former Hanlon Scholar, having pursued research in areas related to public transit systems, health-care analysis, logistics and sports analytics. He blends that research and administrative background with an exemplary teaching record for which he was awarded the U of S Master Teacher Award in 2015, the university’s highest teaching honour.

“We are very confident in the appointment of Professor Willoughby to lead the Edwards School of Business,” said Michael Atkinson, interim provost and vice-president academic. “In Keith, we have found an individual who not only has deep connections to the university, but also combines the academic, research, teaching and administrative pedigree that will help the school take its rightful place among the most distinguished business programs in the country.”

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This year’s Go Abroad Photo Contest, an initiative organized by the International Student and Study Abroad Centre at the University of Saskatchewan, received 69 photos submissions in three categories.

Students who studied abroad, including international students, were invited to submit pictures that most picturesquely portrayed their time studying in another country, or in Saskatoon for international students.

A total of 2,173 votes were cast by more than 650 voters—U of S students, staff, faculty and alumni.

Here are the winning photos in each of the three categories.

To view runners-up and honourable mention images, visit the U of S Flickr page at: flickr.com/photos/usask

**ADVENTURE AND SPORT:**

“On top of the World” by Awang Hazmi Awang Junaidi
The opportunity to further my study in Canada not only allowed me to experience quality education but also allowed me to explore this beautiful country. Canada’s well-kept nature and astonishing landscapes are waiting to be discovered. With numerous world-class National Parks, some recognized as UNESCO World Heritage Sites, this is heaven for a nature lover and avid hiker like me. One of my favorites is Jasper National Park. This picture was taken at the summit of Whistler Mountain. The view is just amazing!

**ARCHITECTURE AND LANDSCAPES:**

“Tasmania: Carp Bay” by Yuqing Wu
Before I started my study abroad term at the University of Newcastle, I had the chance to explore Tasmania. On this tour, I saw some amazing sites including Wineglass Bay, Honeymoon Bay, and Carp Bay. I also met some incredible people from all over the world!

**PEOPLE, CULTURE AND LIFESTYLES:**

“A Happy Woman” by Ajay Srestha
The photo was taken in Nepal when I went for a trek of Annapurna circuit. The local woman in the photo, at rural Manang district of Nepal, gave her real smiling face to my camera. It can be seen that “True Happiness lies within our own state of mind, and so too do the primary obstacles to that happiness - Dalai Lama”

In our May issue, look for the winners of the Images of Research competition.
In the more than 100 years since the University of Saskatchewan's College of Agriculture and Bioresources was founded in 1909—then bereft of the latter portion of its title—the college has continued to evolve and expand.

Aside from the obvious changes, including the opening of the Agriculture Building in 1991, core programming at the college has adapted to fit the changing needs of the industry. What was once a college heavily weighted toward instructing its students with a traditional connection to farming, programming within the college has expanded and transitioned to include the wide breadth of what comprises modern agricultural production, together with the management of the environment and associated bioresources.

“A number of years ago the college recognized that we weren’t ‘A number of years ago the college recognized that we weren’t “A number of years ago the college recognized that we weren’t “A number of years ago the college recognized that we weren’t “A number of years ago the college recognized that we weren’t production-agriculture focused— that our expertise spans issues surrounding agriculture, environment, resource management, food processing and more,” said Fran Walley, the college’s associate dean academic. “Agriculture remains as important as ever and many courses and programs continue to have a production orientation, particularly in the areas of animal science and agronomy.

However, the scope of our programs has expanded to include environmental science, renewable resource management, food and bioproduct science and others that expand far beyond production agriculture. Although production agriculture remains an important core, we have a number of programs that reflect the diversity of research areas and scholarship within the college.”

These days, AgBio has four Bachelor of Science degree programs in agribusiness, agriculture, animal bioscience and renewable resource management, alongside four diploma programs and two certificates.

“We want to provide students with every opportunity to succeed in an industry that is in a nearly continuous state of change,” explained Walley. “The agriculture industry evolves and changes at a rapid pace.

“Farming in the prairies has changed rapidly in the past few decades from smaller family farms to really intensive operations where the operators require specialized skills spanning everything from sustainable crop production, environmental management, to marketing. It’s a new world for farming.”

The college has been shaped by a desire to create opportunities for experiential learning. The idea, said Walley, is to offer students the chance to spend time away from chalkboards and books, and gain a real hands-on understanding of the work they have been studying.

“Experiential learning is really important. You can learn a lot in a classroom, and that’s critical learning, but when you’re actually seeing it and feeling it—literally doing the hands-on work in the field or the lab or wherever—those are often the experiences that really stay with a student and shape them,” she said.

As the college has evolved, Walley has noticed students taking a keen interest in courses centred around the environmental impact of agriculture. The trend, she said, seems natural.

“Agriculture and managing our environment really do go hand in hand. There is a recognition that in order for us to be successful in areas of agriculture, we have to be concerned about our environment, water security, what’s happening in terms of the climate, how we’re managing our bioresources,” she said. “Those things are all inextricably linked when we’re talking about managing the environment around us so that we can foster sustainable food production systems.”

The introduction of new diplomas in Aboriginal lands governance and in Indigenous resource management is consistent with the evolution of college programming. Walley said the move to diploma programs in Aboriginal land management is one that’s equally beneficial to both students and the U of S as a whole, creating an environment where learning is more openly available and more easily encouraged.

“I think it’s really important,” she said. “We have different kinds of university students now who are here for all sorts of different reasons. We want our programs and programming to be flexible enough to allow students to have many different routes into our college and into our programs.”

In all of the changes, Walley said one constant has remained the focus for the College of Agriculture and Bioresources: to help students become champions of their field.

“Our goal is to train our students to be the leaders of the future—in agriculture, in food production, in managing our environment,” she said. “These are important times, and we need people to be able to take on those many challenges that we are facing.”
Towriss headed to Hall

Former U of S Huskies head coach Brian Towriss is going into the Canadian Football Hall of Fame.

The 60-year-old Towriss was one of six individuals announced on March 22 in Regina to be inducted into the Hall of Fame. Towriss stepped down in November after serving 33 years as head coach of the storied U of S football program, capping his career as the winningest university football coach in the country.

“I was fairly emotional when I got the call from (CFL Commissioner) Jeffrey Orridge, for sure surprised, early in the morning and it came as a very pleasant surprise,” Towriss stated.

Towriss played four seasons for the Huskies and rejoined the team as an assistant coach in 1979 prior to taking over the head coaching duties in 1984. He went on to guide the team to nine appearances in the Vanier Cup, winning the national championship three times in 1990, 1996 and 1998. Towriss, who was named CIS coach of the year in 1994, had 71 of his Huskies earn All-Canadian honours, with 47 moving on to play in the CFL and NFL.

Towriss will be inducted into the Hall of Fame at the official ceremonies on Sept. 15 in Hamilton.

Huskie highlights:

The U of S men’s hockey team earned a silver medal at the national championship in Fredericton, N.B., falling 5-3 in the final to New Brunswick on March 19.

Huskies coach Dave Adolph was honoured as the U Sports coach of the year, Jordon Cooke was named goalie of the year and defenceman Jesse Forsberg was a second-team All-Canadian. A triumvirate of former Huskies starred at the Vanier Cup last season: Jordon Cooke was named a second-team All-Canadian, while fellow Huskies guard Libby Epoch made the all-rookie team and Canadian all-rookie team.

Derek Epp cracked the Canadian all-rookie team.

Flory’s story comes full circle with the Huskies

It is still a month away, but Scott Flory is already counting down the days until spring camp.

The new head coach of the University of Saskatchewan Huskies football team will kick off a new era when his team takes to the turf at Griffiths Stadium in PotashCorp Park for spring camp on May 4-7. Flory’s first spring camp was 23 years ago back in 1994 as a raw rookie recruit for the Huskies.

“Spring camp will be the first big thing when we can really turn the page and move forward, so I am looking forward to it,” said Flory, who was named Huskies coach on March 13, taking over from Brian Towriss who stepped down after 33 seasons at the helm of the program.

“I am excited to get started and to bring in some philosophical changes on how we approach football and how we structure things. It’s exciting and it’s going to be new for a lot of our players and I think they are looking forward to it, too.”

The 40-year-old Flory spent the past three seasons serving as the Huskies’ offensive co-ordinator under Towriss, who was the winningest university football coach in the country. Flory played under Towriss when the Huskies won Vanier Cup national championships in 1996 and 1998, before he embarked on a brilliant 15-year professional career in which he was named a nine-time Canadian Football League (CFL) all-star and won three Grey Cups.

Flory, who served as head of the CFL Players Association for three years after retiring as a player, was hired as Huskies head coach following an extensive search that included applicants from across North America. The selection committee was chaired by Chad London, the dean of the College of Kinesiology, and featured former Huskie and current CFLer Patrick Neufeld, Football Canada president Kim Wudrick, Huskie athletic director Basil Hughton and U of S women’s basketball coach Lisa Thomaidis.

In the end, London said Flory was the unanimous pick of the selection committee, to give the historic program a fresh new start.

“Scott has a vision for what this program needs, and the vision that he brought to the table and the elements to execute that vision, set him apart,” said London. “He knows this community, he knows how to develop student-athletes, he has a brilliant football mind and he brings all that you look for in a head coach of Huskie football.”

A native of Regina, Flory played five seasons with the Huskies from 1994 to 1998 and was twice named a CIS All-Canadian, while also earning his Bachelor of Science in civil engineering. Flory went on to be picked in the third round of the 1998 CFL draft and spent 15 seasons with the Montreal Alouettes, twice earning the league’s most outstanding offensive lineman award.

Now he’s back where it all began, heading the program that propelled him to pro football.

“Absolutely this is my dream job,” said Flory, whose wife Natasha is also a U of S alumna in computer science. “Early in my playing days, coaching was definitely a path that I wanted to go down one day.

“I am just honoured and privileged to be here as an alumnus. This program has given so much to me and it’s my opportunity now to give back and to do my best for all those guys in our locker room and all of our coaches, and to make the university and the community proud.”
COMING EVENTS

COURSES / WORKSHOPS

Edwards School of Business Executive Education
For information call 306-966-8868, email execed@edwards.usask.ca or visit edwards.usask.ca/execed.
- April 17–18, Operational Excellence Certificate: Master Clinic on Solving Tough Problems – Saskatoon
- April 20–21, Operational Excellence Certificate: Process Metrics, Management and Controls – Saskatoon
- April 25–May 23, The Leadership Development Program – Saskatoon
- April 26–28, Digital and Social Media Program: Metrics, Measurement and Analytics – Saskatoon
- May 18, Edwards School of Business Leadership Conference: Evidence-Based Decision Making – Saskatoon
- May 26–June 2, Effective Executive – Waskesiu

Language Classes
For more information or to register, visit learnlanguages.usask.ca or call 306-966-4355.

ESL Evening Classes at the Language Centre
- Spring term, April–May and summer term, July–August. Classes include advanced writing and speaking, graduate-level writing, pronunciation.

Summer Non-Credit Conversational Language Classes
- Learn, improve, maintain and master your French and Spanish speaking, listening and grammar skills. Classes begin the week of July 4 and are limited to 16 places.

One-week Intensive French Immersion
- Aug. 14–18; 8:30 am–5 pm (one hour lunch break). All levels offered (beginner to advanced). This week-long program consists of 40 hours of learning; highlights of the program include: themes, vocabulary and grammar taught with the communicative method. Language lab exercises and group projects and discussions. Guided conversations, discussions and debates. Friday final luncheon will be provided.

Four-day Intensive Cree Immersion
- Aug. 14–18; 10 am–3 pm (one hour lunch break). This program offers 16 hours of learning over four days. Highlights of the week include: instruction using the communicative method, experienced teachers, group projects, guided conversations and discussions, and socio-cultural activities. Learn nêhiyawêwin (Cree language) through a practical approach. The lessons inspired by Stephen Grey-morning will provide you with the skills and appreciation to speak and understand the nêhiyawêwin language through total immersion techniques. This beginner Cree language course will enhance your professional and personal relationships. It is an ideal course for those who have little or no Cree language skills. Must be 18 years old. The textbook is included.

MISCELLANY

Wellness Events
For more information, contact wellness-resources@usask.ca or call 306-966-4580. These events are free for all U of S employees.
- April 11, 1–2 pm, Admin C280, Communication Skills for Families. This workshop will improve your communication skills and supply tips for conflict resolution. To register, visit familycommunication.usask.eventbrite.ca.
- May 2, 11 am–12 pm, Agriculture 1E85, Living with Change. Whether going back to school or changing careers, starting a family or retiring, change brings both opportunities and turmoil. This workshop will provide you techniques to deal effectively with personal or professional change. To register, visit livingwithchange.usask.eventbrite.ca.
- May 3, 3–4 pm, Physics 127, Mental Health Awareness. Mental illness can affect you, or the people around you at any time. Fear, avoidance or judgment will only make the problems worse. This workshop works to breaks down the stigma that surrounds mental illness and give you the tools to support co-workers in need. To register, visit mentalhealthusask.eventbrite.ca.
- May 5, 9:30–10:30 am, Agriculture 1E79, Understanding Depression. Are you feeling tired all the time, have prolonged periods of sadness or loss of interest in what used to be your favourite activity? You could be suffering from depression. This workshop helps you identify the symptoms of depression, possible causes and treatment options. To register visit depressionusask.eventbrite.ca.

3MT Western Regional Competition
April 28, 1–3 pm, GSA Commons, Emmanuel and St. Chad, 1337 College Drive. The event is open to the public, with no admission fee. Join us for the exciting Three Minute Thesis competition for champions from Western Canadian universities in Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia, with the winners advancing to the national championship. For more information, contact Lori Listz at 306-966-5759 or visit usask.ca/cgps/events/3-minute-thesis.php.

Saskatoon Theological Union Convocation
May 5, 7–9 pm, Knox United Church. The Saskatoon Theological Union will hold its 16th joint convocation. Approximately 20 students will graduate this year—one from the College of Emmanuel and St. Chad; six from Lutheran Theological Seminary and 14 from St. Andrew’s College. Honorary degrees will also be given out this evening.

Canadian Mental Health Awareness Week Event
May 3, 12:30–1:30 pm, 1150 Health Sciences E-Wing Theatre. Come learn about mental illness through storytelling from individuals and family members dealing with mental illness. Mental health professionals will be on hand to speak at the event, with a question-and-answer session to follow. The event will also feature the book launch of Much Madness, Divinest Sense—Women’s Stories of Mental Health and Health Care. The new book features submissions from University of Saskatchewan staff and is co-edited by Lori Hanson, associate professor in the Department of Community Health and Epidemiology at the U of S.

Poster session: Life and Health Sciences Research Expo
May 5, 1–4:30 pm, Education Gym. The Life and Health Sciences Research Expo acknowledges exemplary research and learning activities within the life and health sciences at the U of S. The poster session will feature research submissions from undergraduate and graduate students, and post-doctoral researchers from the health sciences, as well as dentistry and medical residents. All are invited to attend. For more information, visit healthsciences.usask.ca/research-expo.

Alumni Weekend—100 years. Millions of memories
Registration is now open for Alumni Weekend, May 18–21. Alumni Weekend is the all-years reunion and celebration of the U of S Alumni Association’s Centennial. Whether you graduated in 1966 or 2016, you’re invited to join the festivities on campus at the U of S. Alumni Weekend promises to be as unforgettable as your experience as a student. Visit alumni.usask.ca/centennial/alumneweekend to register and check out the complete weekend schedule. Reconnect with old friends. Reminisce about your time spent on the beautiful U of S campus. Rediscover your love for your alma mater.

Alumni Achievement Awards – Nominations now open
Nominations are open for the U of S Alumni Achievement Awards. The Alumni Achievement Awards are presented annually to U of S graduates who are chosen for their outstanding achievements and innovation; commitment to excellence; community engagement and leadership; and contributions to the social, cultural and economic well-being of society. Do you know a friend or co-worker who is deserving of a nomination? Nominate them at alumni.usask.ca/awards. Nominations close June 5.

Sunday Mass at STM Chapel
Each Sunday until Oct. 22, 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.

Aboriginal Career Start program returns
After rave reviews, the University of Saskatchewan has brought back the Aboriginal Career Start (ACS) program for a second straight year.

The program is a partnership between the U of S and the Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies (SIIT), the Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI) and the Saskatoon Tribal Council (STC). This year, 16 students will earn valuable work experience as they are placed in three and four-month full or part-time positions in units across campus, with a number of last year’s participants having secured permanent employment at the U of S.

“T’s great to celebrate the success and popularity of this program as we prepare for Cohort 2 this year,” said Paul Sayers, ACS program chair, who helped announce the return of the program at a launch event on April 5.

“Our external Aboriginal partner organizations have been great to work with and it is wonderful to provide these graduates with placement opportunities across our campus.”

REVIEW OF VICE-PROVOST, TEACHING AND LEARNING

In accordance with the board-approved Search and Review Procedures for Senior Administrators, a committee has been established to review the performance of Vice-Provost, Teaching and Learning, Patti McDougall.

The review committee invites members of the university community to provide feedback on Dr. McDougall’s performance as Vice-Provost, Teaching and Learning.

Submissions can be made by letter or email. Respondents are encouraged to use the framework of accountabilities (expectations) and competencies (skills) from the position profile to provide their feedback, although the review committee recognizes that not everyone can comment on each area. The profile is available by contacting lori.auchtstaetter@usask.ca. When making a submission by email, respondents must include their name and affiliation in the body of the email. Every email submission will be acknowledged by return email to confirm the authenticity of the author’s identity.

All submissions received through this process will be considered by the review committee in raw form. However, letterhead and signature information will be removed to protect the confidentiality of the respondents when the feedback is shared with the review committee and the incumbent. If you wish your message to be fully confidential, please avoid including self-identifying information in the text of your submission.

Please make your confidential submission by the end of the day on April 20, 2017, to Lori Auchtstaetter, review committee coordinator, Office of the Provost and Vice-President Academic (by email: lori.auchtstaetter@usask.ca, in hard copy: 208 Peter MacKinnon Building, or by fax: 966-4316).

Next OCN: Friday, May 12
Deadline: Monday, May 1
Huskie salute

Huskie Athletics honoured the top student-athletes at their year-end awards ceremony on March 31. From left are Meagan Manson (female all-around athlete, women's soccer), Derek Epp (male rookie of the year, men's volleyball), Astrid Nyame (female athlete of the year, women's track and field), Andrew Johnson (all-around male athlete, men's wrestling), Dave Adolph (coach of the year, men's hockey), Jordon Cooke (male athlete of the year, men's hockey), and Libby Epoch (female rookie of the year, women's basketball). Not pictured: Chelsey McEwen (trainer of the year, women's volleyball).

Anniversary events across campus

Here is a quick look at some of the other campus events to celebrate Canada 150.

Visit canada150.usask.ca for the complete list:
- Multiple major anniversary celebrations, including the university’s 110th anniversary, the 100th anniversary of the U of S Alumni Association, and the 10th anniversaries of the School of Environment and Sustainability, the Johnson-Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy, and the School of Public Health.
- Supporting student artistic work:
  - A three-movement work entitled Scenes of Plains Peoples has been commissioned for performance by the Greystone Singers and the U of S jazz and wind orchestras. The pieces were composed by U of S music graduate Paul Suchan.
  - A new category—Making a Difference Video Competition—was added to the Images of Research competition, offering people a chance to tell in 60 seconds the story of their research and how it benefits the country.
  - Nominations are being accepted for deserving faculty, staff, students and alumni for the Canada 150 Citizen campaign, as the U of S recognizes members of our community who are helping make Canada a more diverse, inclusive and environmentally sustainable country.
  - A collection of 150 photographs highlighting university history have been selected by university archivist Patrick Hayes and showcased on the U of S Canada 150 website.
  - A sponsored essay contest for high school students in partnership with the Saskatoon StarPhoenix that will be judged by novelist Yann Martel.

Mission, vision, values drive institutional plan

The themes become the criteria by which the university can assess progress toward goals for the future, Rigby explained. For example, a decision to expand the student body could be evaluated by asking how that growth would make the university more sustainable, connected, diverse and creative.

With its final form yet to be determined, Rigby said the document might be broken into the four themes and the goals associated with each, in essence “describing the journey we’re on as a university. I imagine it will be a general, hopefully exciting and inspirational outline of what we’re trying to achieve as an institution.”

He said the timelines for preparing the institutional plan are aggressive. There will be some general consultation but we’re consciously trying not to replicate the mission, vision and values work.” A preliminary draft is expected for public review no later than the end of May, with approval of a final document by the university’s three governing bodies anticipated in the fall.

Once approved, the document becomes the basis for developing college and unit priorities and goals. Rigby said it “must be firm enough to maintain our direction, but at the same time allow college and unit plans to be responsive to changes in the institution and changes in the environment.”

Atkinson added care will be taken in writing the document to ensure it reaches a wide range of internal and external audiences, from students, faculty and staff to Saskatchewan taxpayers and politicians.

“We want people to easily and quickly get a sense of the key priorities of the university, and to understand what we are and what we aspire to be.”

SASKATOON POTTERS GUILD

SPRING SALE AND JURIED EXHIBITION

PLEASE NOTE: THE JURIED EXHIBITION WILL CLOSE SUNDAY AT 3 PM

APRIL 29 & 30, 2017
Saturday 9 am – 7 pm
Sunday 10 am – 4 pm
Third Floor Loft,
Albert Community Centre
610 Clarence Avenue and 11th Street
Saskatoon

Best Overall Piece 2016 Juried Competition themed “Color and Line”
Doris Tweeddel Award recipient • Artist: Judi Whiting - Electric Kiln Fired

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What are you?
I'm a cube erected in honour of Thorbergur Thorvaldson, who served as a professor and head of the Department of Chemistry from 1919–1948 and later as dean of graduate studies.

What are you made of?
I am a type of cement resistant to sulphate deterioration, developed by Thorvaldson and his research team at the U of S.

Who is that?
Originally from Iceland, Thorvaldson was a chemist and pioneer in materials chemistry research. He joined the U of S in 1914 and became department head five years later. It was around this time that a problem emerged in Western Canada related to the corrosive action of sulfates on concrete—a major issue for engineers.

Along with his research team—which included C.J Mackenzie, former dean of engineering—Thorvaldson conducted significant research on the cause of this new phenomenon and devised a technique that changed the crystalline structure of concrete, rendering it immune to sulfate damage. This discovery changed the manufacturing process for cement and saved many existing structures from decay, winning Thorvaldson much acclaim—including renaming the Chemistry Building to the Thorvaldson Building in his honour in 1966.

Campus legend has it that Prof. Thorvaldson is buried inside of you. Is that true?
I can assure you that this is not how we treat our esteemed former faculty members.

Thorvaldson cube
LOCATION:
STEPS IN FRONT OF THE THORVALDSON BUILDING