SECURING USASK

The University of Saskatchewan’s Information and Communications Technology team wards off cyberattacks to keep our network secure. The team has tips for faculty, students and staff to help keep the university cybersafe.

SEE PAGE 5.
IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

A&WMW invests in U of S research centre

A&W has made a substantial investment in the Canadian beef industry with a $5-million donation toward the University of Saskatchewan’s Livestock and Forage Centre of Excellence (LFCE).

The LFCE will be a multi-site, multi-disciplinary research centre that focuses on the livestock production chain including forage, cow-calf, beef cattle production and environmental research.

“A&W is deeply committed to the Canadian beef and forage industry,” said Jefferson Mooney, chairman emeritus, A&W. “Our investment is an investment in the future of Canadian food and best practices to make that food.”

The donation will be used to fund the construction of the Livestock and Food Building at the LFCE site near Clavet, Sask., create a community outreach and engagement program, and to establish a visiting fellowship in One Health research.

“A&W, the University of Saskatchewan and Canadian ranchers all believe in good food, farmed with care. Together, we are forging new tools and techniques for healthy, sustainable growth,” said Susan Senecal, chief operating officer, A&W. “We are united in a passion for great beef.”

The Livestock and Food Building will be a significant part of the heart of the livestock operations at the LFCE and a major location for research activities. The building will also act as a hub for the community outreach program, which will offer presentations and seminars for both industry representatives and consumers.

Mary Buhr, dean of the U of S College of Agriculture and Biore-

sources, said this strategic relationship will add another dimension to the university’s One Health initiative and research that focuses on the link between beef production practices, environmental wellbeing, and human health and nutrition.

From left, A&W COO Susan Senecal, senior VP Trish Sahstrom and chairman emeritus Jefferson Mooney with Mary Buhr, dean of College of Agriculture and Bioresources, and U of S President Peter Stoicheff.

University trains Indigenous youth

Close to 50 Indigenous youth aged 10-14 from seven communities supported by the Saskatoon Tribal Council took part in the first ever Youth Leadership Through Sports Program at the U of S on Nov. 26.

The youth athletics camp, a community collaboration hosted by health and fitness experts from the College of Kinesiology as well as Huskie Athletics coaches, covered everything from testing and training to nutrition and leadership.

Law launches new scholarship

The College of Law introduced a new scholarship on Nov. 6 that will fully fund the tuition, student fees and textbooks of one Juris Doctor (JD) student, who has claimed or is claiming refugee status in Canada, for the duration of their three-year law degree at the U of S. Eligible students who apply to the college’s JD program through the regular process, and secure a place for Sept. 2018, will be able to apply for the scholarship.

Research reveals songbirds at risk

Research at the U of S led by post-doctoral fellow Margaret Eng and biology professor Christy Morrissey has linked the use of insecticides to serious health issues in songbirds.

The study, announced Nov. 9, is the first to show that imidacloprid (neonicotinoid) and chlorpyrifos (organophosphate)—two of the most widely used insecticides worldwide—are toxic to seed-eating songbirds and can directly affect migration.

U of S mapping lentil genomes

A partnership between U of S crop scientists and world-leading genomic data company NRGene of Israel has successfully sequenced two wild lentil genomes—the largest legume genomes ever assembled—the university announced Nov. 8.

The research project, part of the $7.9-million Genome Canada-funded “Application of Genomics to Innovation in the Lentil Economy,” is led by U of S scientists Kirstin Bett and Bert Vandenberg.

FOR MORE UP-TO-THE-MINUTE NEWS, VISIT: news.usask.ca  
@usask
The University of Saskatchewan was well-represented and well-received at the third national Building Reconciliation Forum at the University of Saskatchewan last month.

Regarded as a national leader in Indigenization efforts in post-secondary institutions, U of S representatives shared their expertise at the forum, as Jacqueline Ottmann, Kristina Bidwell and Lawrence Martz were among those who took centre stage in a number of sessions.

“The University of Saskatchewan had a strong, influential presence at the national forum that was arguably greater than any other visiting university in the country,” said U of S President Peter Stoicheff, who was one of the university’s senior leaders who attended the Nov. 7-9 forum—The Journey Toward a Reconciled Education System.

The U of S sent a contingent of 26 faculty, student leaders and senior administration staff members to the forum in Winnipeg, home to the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation, which has a partnership with the U of S to share archival information.

Bidwell, an English professor and associate dean of Aboriginal affairs in the College of Arts and Science, and Martz, a geography and planning professor and vice-dean of faculty relations in the college, helped lead a session at the forum on improving Indigenous faculty recruitment at post-secondary institutions. Meanwhile, Ottmann was one of the national authorities selected to lead the session entitled Institutional Development: Indigenous Leadership at Universities and Colleges.

For Ottmann, it was her second national reconciliation forum, but her first while representing the U of S after becoming the first vice-provost of Indigenous engagement at the university on Oct. 1.

“The highlight was hearing the residential school survivor stories and seeing the university presidents share their perspectives on commitments to Indigenization and decolonization initiatives,” said Ottmann.

“The themes that emerged for me included the importance of authentic and sustained collaborative efforts to support Indigenization and decolonization initiatives, and the importance of truth-telling in reconciliation processes.”

The U of S was honoured to host the first national forum—Building Reconciliation: Universities Answering the TRC’s Calls to Action—on Nov. 18-19, 2015, and continues to be a progressive leader in Indigenization efforts amongst Canadian post-secondary institutions, Ottmann said.

“The University of Saskatchewan has weaved Indigenization into the university plan: from the vision, to the mission, principles, commitments and future aspirations,” said Ottmann, who will lead an internal debrief on the national forum in the coming weeks at the U of S. “Indigenization is fundamental, not a separate initiative or strategy, to the University of Saskatchewan.

“The next steps involve living Indigenization, which includes drawing upon Indigenous knowledges, learning Indigenous perspectives on histories, traditions, languages and philosophies … All of this should be done with appropriate protocols and with the utmost respect. These commitments will have the university actively create, repair and work at sustaining relationships and redressing past wrongs.”

To that end, the U of S is weaving Indigenous content, drawing from Indigenous knowledges, worldviews and experiences, across the full spectrum of academic programming.

“Content drawn from Indigenous experience and ways of knowing is being incorporated into all our degree programs across campus—not to supplant traditional western understanding, but to enrich it, offer alternatives to it, acknowledge thousands of years of deep learning that occurred here long prior to it, and give all students a richer, more informed and ultimately more compassionate understanding of the world,” wrote Stoicheff in a recent Saskatoon StarPhoenix and Regina Leader-Post op-ed piece. “Through this, the U of S will be an even better university.”

Participants will head west for the fourth national forum, to be hosted by the University of Victoria in 2018.

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**Season’s greetings**

As we approach the holiday season, I want to take a moment to thank you all for your contributions to our university community and to highlight some of the events that have made 2017 such a special year at the University of Saskatchewan.

It’s been a year of milestones as we celebrated Canada’s 150th anniversary of confederation in our university’s 110th year, as well as the 100th anniversary of our U of S alumni association, which now numbers more than 150,000 members world-wide.

As part of our Canada 150 events, we were honoured to have three former prime ministers come to campus this year with Jean Chrétien, Kim Campbell and Paul Martin speaking to students, staff and faculty. We also had the privilege of welcoming back Prime Minister Justin Trudeau for a pair of visits in 2017.

We were proud to reaffirm our place as one of the country’s top-15 medical-doctoral universities, with the news that the U of S led all Canadian universities with the largest increase in research funding at 27.8 per cent, while also moving up in international rankings.

We have also greatly enhanced our senior leadership team this year, installing our new chancellor Roy Romanow and appointing a new provost and new deans in Arts and Science, Dentistry, Engineering, Nursing, the Edwards School of Business, and the University Library. We also welcomed new executive directors in the School of Environment and Sustainability, and the School of Public Health, as well as our first chief athletics officer in Huskie Athletics.

We now have more students enrolled than ever before, including a record number of Indigenous students. As we continued the process of reconciliation, we were also excited to recruit our first vice-provost of Indigenous engagement and one of the first in Canada.

While we look back at the accomplishments of 2017, we also have plenty to look forward to in 2018, including the upcoming openings of two new state-of-the-art facilities on campus in the Collaborative Science Research Building and Merlis Belsher Place.

I wish you a happy holiday season and all the best in the new year.

President Peter Stoicheff
As the country prepares for the legalization of cannabis next year, the U of S is ramping up research into the healing effects of medical marijuana.

Assistant professor Robert Laprairie is leading a new lab in the College of Pharmacy and Nutrition that explores the effects of cannabinoids to help treat a wide range of diseases and disorders, after being appointed to a five-year term as GSK-CIHR Research Chair in Drug Discovery and Development on August 1. With medical marijuana use on the rise and recreational marijuana slated to become legal in Canada on July 1, 2018, Laprairie said the research field has quickly become more compelling and crucial.

“The research that will be conducted in my own lab, and in collaboration with other researchers at the U of S, is of the utmost importance,” said Laprairie, who is from Saskatoon and graduated with a Bachelor of Science Honours in Biochemistry in 2010 at the U of S before moving on to earn a master’s and PhD and complete a postdoctoral fellowship at The Scripps Research Institute in Florida in July.

“Cannabinoids and marijuana are becoming an increasingly important part of the health and well-being of Canadians. In order to ensure that cannabinoids and marijuana are used appropriately as medicine, and in an effort towards harm reduction, this research will benefit the university, province and country.”

Laprairie’s research will support the work of the Cannabinoid Research Initiative of Saskatchewan, a multidisciplinary collaborative research project featuring experts in the Colleges of Pharmacy and Nutrition, Medicine, and Veterinary Medicine at the U of S. The new $5-million endowed research chair is supported by funding from GlaxoSmithKline’s (GSK) Pathfinders Fund for Leaders in Canadian Health Science Research, in partnership with the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) and the U of S College of Pharmacy and Nutrition. It is one of only two such chairs in all of Canada within pharmacy schools.

Laprairie’s lab will focus on developing new synthetic cannabinoids and characterizing the many cannabinoids present in marijuana. These may be used to help treat pain, addiction and anxiety, as well as everything from epilepsy, multiple sclerosis and post-traumatic stress disorder to Parkinson’s disease and Huntington’s disease.

“I am extremely excited to get going in proper fashion,” said Laprairie, who also teaches pharmacology, pathophysiology and neuroscience courses at the U of S. “I have been applying to multiple granting bodies (CIHR, Epilepsy Canada, and the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada) and I am working to establish strong collaborations here at the U of S.”

Teamwork underscores smooth accreditation visit

The College of Medicine (CoM) at the U of S hosted its full-site undergraduate medical education program accreditation review Oct. 29 to Nov. 1.

A seven-member team of reviewers met with more than 200 college faculty, staff and students, and key stakeholder organizations during the four-day review.

“The participation and engagement of our faculty, staff, students and key stakeholder organizations in the visit and in preparing for it was excellent and is greatly appreciated,” said Dr. Preston Smith, dean of the College of Medicine. “I can’t emphasize enough the pride I have in our students, faculty and staff for the superbly professional way they organized and delivered the visit. I saw enthusiasm, pride, exceptional teamwork and mutual support. I saw incredible diligence in preparation.

“And did I mention teamwork?” he added. “Teamwork across campuses, across organizational units, amongst students, faculty, staff, and CoM leaders. The teamwork was a joy to watch and a very positive indicator for our future as we are becoming a high-performing team. Furthermore, the accreditors commented on the enthusiasm and commitment of our faculty and students, and the exceptional organization of the visit.”

The team reviewed the college’s undergraduate medical education program (UGME) on behalf of the Committee on Accreditation of Canadian Medical Schools (CACMS).

“Our reviewers were collegial, collaborative, gracious and diligent, and we thank them sincerely in helping us with our ongoing commitment to continuous quality improvement of our UGME program, and service to our students,” said Smith.

Accreditation is a regular review process that involves extensive peer evaluation of compliance with standards for educational quality. The college expects to receive the report on the accreditation review from CACMS in June or July of 2018.

Kate Blau is a communications specialist in the College of Medicine.
Industries such as financial services and health care typically come to mind as common targets for these kind of attacks, but according to Jon Coller, the University of Saskatchewan’s chief information security officer, post-secondary institutions are experiencing an increase in both the frequency and sophistication of cyberattacks.

“Universities are prime targets, for a couple of reasons,” Coller said. “They collect and store a large volume of personal, financial and research data on behalf of faculty, staff and students, but by nature operate in a very open environment that encourages connectivity and collaboration with multiple stakeholders.”

When cyber breaches occur at universities, criminals introduce software to networks and devices that can collect or encrypt data. The research, clinical or financial information that is stored on the device or network is then exposed publicly or held for ransom until a payment is made.

The risk to intellectual property, along with the recent cyberattacks at post-secondary institutions across the country, has prompted the university to re-examine its information technology (IT) security and data management strategies.

“The changes we began applying this past summer on computers and laptops significantly reduce the ability for infections to infiltrate a device or spread between individual computers,” Coller said. “We are also making updates to our university network which will put stricter barriers between university systems that house sensitive information and public devices that have the potential to be compromised.”

These advancements have helped to improve the overall security posture of the university. However, Coller touched on a couple of simple, but important ways individuals can help the university defend against attacks.

First, set strong eight-or-more character passwords on all accounts. Second, know how to identify and report phishing emails. According to Coller, the most common method cybercriminals use to gain access to an organization’s IT infrastructure is through an infected device.

“They do this by tricking the user into providing their credentials or install malicious software when the user clicks on an embedded web link or attachment,” he said.

Once the criminal gains access to the device, they attempt to infiltrate other locations on the network, or begin corrupting services. Information and Communications Technology (ICT) has now introduced new services to help secure university data and individual devices. DATASTORE, a high-capacity research storage solution, eliminates the risk of data loss or theft, Coller said. This free service is available to all researchers and provides up to three terabytes of data storage.

“We’ve also added Software Centre, which is basically the university’s app store,” Coller said. “Faculty and staff can download and install secure applications maintained by ICT and are continually updated with security patches from the software provider.”

To help educate members of the university on techniques used to defend against cyberattacks, ICT has also launched itsecurity.usask.ca. This website includes lists of the common phishing attempts that have targeted the university and contains cyber safety-related training videos and resources.

JODY GRESS

The devastating impact of cyberattacks is becoming an all-too-familiar headline in Canada and across the world.

Jody Gress is a communications specialist in Information and Communications Technology.

Jon Coller is the chief information security officer in Information and Communications Technology.
New donor-funded dentistry clinic open for business

The campus community has a new reason to smile, as Clinic 120—the College of Dentistry’s new general practice residency clinic—is officially open.

The clinic, which began taking patients in September, has three treatment rooms and is loaded with some of the newest and most modern dental technology available.

While the clinic is part of the College of Dentistry, it’s not to be confused with the Dental Education Clinic where U of S students practice under supervision.

“It’s not a student clinic. They’re licensed dentists who are skilled just like anybody else in the community,” said Dr. Mohan Teekasingh, who is the director of the graduate program.

He said the clinic is a valuable resource for the campus community, and is eager to see more people take advantage of it.

“A lot of people aren’t aware we’re here,” he said. “We work with student insurance plans, so it’s not going to be burdensome on university students to come here.

“We accept patients with all types of dental needs, including those who just need a checkup, a cleaning, or a good bill of health. This might be the place for them.”

The clinic has provided a significant transformation for the residency program.

While residents get plenty of experience in trauma and surgical procedures, Teekasingh said this clinic allows them to also keep up-to-date with their general dentistry skills and provides them with an opportunity to become familiar with new technology before they enter private practice.

The clinic construction and equipment was almost entirely funded by individuals in the dentistry profession, who were eager to see a state-of-the-art clinic added to the infrastructure of the college.

Best of all, the funds generated by Clinic 120 will be re-invested back into the college.

Dr. Steve Arcand, who is currently in the residency program, was one of the first dentists to practice in the new clinic.

He said he’s grateful for the alumni support, and is looking forward to seeing the clinic be successful.

“We get to work with some of the most modern technologies, equipment and instruments, so without the donations coming from alumni, that wouldn’t be possible,” Arcand said.

Arcand added that he’s been able to take on challenging cases because he has access to all of the faculty specialists who are happy to offer a second opinion.

“We are quite literally a couple of steps away from those specialists, so our patients have some of the most well-rounded and comprehensive care that can be delivered,” he said.

“In terms of a learning opportunity, nowhere else in this province would someone have access to that when it comes to practicing dentistry.”

A grand opening will be held for the clinic in the coming months, but in the meantime, Teekasingh said he’s eager to get the word out so more people in Saskatoon can take advantage of this brand-new facility.

“Our goal is to support the university community because we’re homegrown and our successes will support things here,” he said.

“We are part of the campus community and anything we can do to help build the profile of the university with the services we offer, I think that’s a win at the end of the day.”

Roxanne McHattie is a development communications specialist in University Relations.
Dentistry a lifelong passion for new dean

HENRYLYE GLAZEBROOK

You might not expect it from the University of Saskatchewan’s new dean in the College of Dentistry, but crooked teeth had a big impact on Dr. Doug Brothwell’s childhood self-esteem.

What he didn’t know then, however, was that a healthy dose of dental care, combined with some kind words from a dynamic orthodontist, would straighten the young Brothwell’s teeth, re-adjust his confidence and give him exciting new insights into his life’s ambition.

“The first historical record I have found of it is listed under ‘career aspirations’ in my grade eight yearbook that states I want to be an orthodontist,” Brothwell said. “I didn’t know at the time that you need to first be a dentist before you can be an orthodontist, but I knew that I wanted to make meaningful change in people’s lives, in exactly the way I had been changed.”

After serving as associate dean (academic) with the University of Manitoba’s College of Dentistry, Brothwell began his term as dean at the U of S on Sept. 1, returning to the campus where he received his Doctor of Dental Medicine in 1984.

He credits the homecoming with giving him an opportunity to take the knowledge he’s accrued from years of work in both academia and private dentistry—watching firsthand as leaders made both good and poor choices—to carve out his own mark in the field.

“I knew I had something good and new to bring, and needed a dean’s position to accomplish what I wanted,” said Brothwell, who also secured his Bachelor of Education from the U of S in 1994. “I started at the U of S, and my family and I have had a great life because of its dental school. This is my last chance to build something that can result in transformative change for my people and province, and I feel like the one to do it.”

Brothwell said he is enthusiastic about helping to bring new faces into the college, particularly those who have been underrepresented in its student body in years past.

“We are looking to attract more Indigenous students and faculty,” he said. “We plan to collaborate with First Nations entities and develop programming that supports traditional ways and understanding, and we are looking to partner with members of Indigenous communities to do shared, respectful research.”

At the heart of Brothwell’s goals is a deep understanding of the way dental health can reshape lives. For some, that positive change can be as simple as a young boy’s burst of confidence when he catches a glance of his newly-straightened pearly whites. For others, it might be a shift in social economics through preventative medicine.

But in all cases, Brothwell said the difference is a better life through dentistry.

“Oral health is an integral and important component of overall health and well-being,” he said. “Humans cannot be healthy and aspire to the things they enjoy and need in life unless their oral health is a positive resource they can rely on for eating, socializing, smiling and talking. With bad oral health, suffering persists and quality of life erodes.”

HenryTye Glazebrook is a freelance writer and former U of S communications co-ordinator.
Jacqueline Ottmann, the first vice-provost of Indigenous engagement at the U of S, speaks at her welcoming reception in the Gordon Oakes Red Bear Student Centre.

Ottmann optimistic about Indigenization

HENRYTYE GLAZEBROOK

With a father who served as chief of her Fishing Lake First Nation for three decades and a mother who has driven school buses for 45 years, it’s easy for Jacqueline Ottmann to credit her parents for setting a healthy foundation of leadership, integrity and education in her life.

What she never expected, however, was how these strong character traits would still leave her wanting more—wanting to enact real, structural, systemic change in her environment.

“What I realized was that there was a paucity of authentic, engaging, meaningful Indigenous content within our schools, and that includes our universities,” said Ottmann, who became the University of Saskatchewan’s first ever vice-provost, Indigenous engagement, on Oct. 1. “If you don’t have those voices and that meaningful content, then I think we’re doing a disservice to society.”

Ottmann, who is Anishinaabe (Saulteaux), came to the U of S from the University of Calgary’s Werklund School of Education, where she was the director of Indigenous education initiatives, an associate professor and co-chair of U of C Indigenous strategy.

Ottmann said the new role with the U of S was an opportunity not only to return to the campus where she completed her graduate and PhD programs, but also a chance to help shape her alma mater as it places more and more emphasis on the importance of reconciliation, Indigenization and community collaboration.

“I really feel that this position does send a message to Indigenous communities—not only within Saskatchewan but across the nation and indeed internationally,” she said. “Indigenization is important to the U of S, and the university is being responsive to the Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action and is respectful of the United Nations’ Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People.

“That is a very strong stance, and I think this position will help to affirm and solidify that important message for Indigenous people.”

Ottmann said she looks forward to working with U of S senior leadership to discuss initiatives for the campus as a whole as well as collaborating with individual colleges and departments, and that diving into her new position in the midst of the university planning process offers a unique opportunity to ensure Indigenous voices and perspectives are fully acknowledged.

“If Indigenization is identified as one of the four strategic commitments, then it makes sense that there be an Indigenous person at the senior level to help inform, educate and speak to relevant issues and help plan meaningful and authentic policies that affect not only Indigenous faculty, students and staff on campus, but the whole student and community body,” she said.

But even more important, Ottmann emphasized, are the new dreams and aspirations that she hopes having a person like herself in a position of such prominence might ignite in Indigenous youth.

“Now that I’m in this position, my nieces and nephews, my children—everyone that I come into contact with—will know the role and responsibilities of a vice-provost,” she said. “It opens the door, in essence, for Indigenous students to aspire to these positions. I think that’s very exciting. If we have Indigenous students aspire to these positions, then again I think we’re working toward a stronger university and society in general. What’s good for Indigenous people is good for all people.”

HenryTye Glazebrook is a freelance writer and former U of S communications co-ordinator.
The topic of diversity and identity in video games is an important one—the digital media that we surround ourselves with affects our behaviour, emotions and sense of self.

Yet when it comes to ethnic representation, many games are repeatedly failing to meet their audiences' demands for greater diversity.

That's according to work done by researcher Cale Passmore of the Human-Computer Interaction Lab (HCIL) at the University of Saskatchewan. Studying how identity factors, ethnicity and culture are portrayed in video game technology and related media forms, Passmore and his cadre of researchers are hoping to make positive changes in a world where digital character features are often an afterthought.

Leading a recent survey of nearly 300 gamers located in the United States, Passmore said that a strong majority of the participants expressed strong desires for greater ethnic representation when it comes to playing video games.

"We have the technology to accurately depict all ethnicities in games, and many players acknowledge this," said Passmore. "Aside from abysmally low racial ethnic representation in the digital actors used, even when there are options given for character creation, white characters just end up being the default, or Caucasian features are given darker skin tones, resulting in what is now known as high-tech blackface."

But there was another majority opinion that came from the survey. Diversity shouldn't be shoehorned in—it needs to be accurate.

"Otherwise we would just be ushering in more stereotypes or minstrelsy," he said.

Passmore's research on racial and ethnic experiences in digital gaming is only one part of the puzzle of the work done in human-computer interaction (HCI), one of the world's most rapidly evolving disciplines. And there are plenty of reasons to be paying attention to this work, said one of the co-directors of the HCIL.

The lab works on a number of projects and research that range from how to visualize information to how humans interact with machines—from gaming to livestreaming experiences and everything in-between, said Regan Mandryk, a professor in the Department of Computer Science. The lab—considered a world leader in human-computer interaction, according to Mandryk—is exploring the ramifications that the video game industry is having on society.

"Lack of diversity in these games is linked with anxiety, depression and shame," said Passmore. "These norms are harming all players' gaming experience."

This is all endemic of a larger problem, according to Passmore. Society is already seeing the effects from racial underrepresentation in popular culture, in movies and in the media, not just in games. Still, he hopes that research coming from the HCIL will help inform future representation in digital gaming to make a better playing experience for everyone.

"(We've found that) players of colour are excited at the prospect of playing a character that actually represents who they are, and the health benefits—for players of all backgrounds—are too significant to ignore."
U of S alum’s journey comes full circle

HENRYTE GLAZEBROOK

When Melanie Wilkinson moved from small-town Saskatchewan to a teaching job in New York City, she expected a certain amount of complications as she settled into her new surroundings.

What she didn’t expect, unpacking her bags in August of 2001, was the World Trade Center terrorist attack that would rock her new home less than a month later.

“When the first plane hit, I remember it was announced on the intercom,” she recalled. “Some students even saw it. I remember thinking it sounded so weird. How could something like that happen in the middle of the city?”

“We ended up seeing the second (tower) being hit from our classroom. We sat looking out the window pretty much all day watching it unfold. We were on lockdown.”

Wilkinson is now the field experiences co-ordinator in the College of Education at the University of Saskatchewan, but her journey to that role is a winding road from undergraduate uncertainty to job security, with curves through quiet Saskatchewan hamlets and the Big Apple in-between.

She never saw herself as a teacher to begin with, and only sought out her education degree at the U of S as a stepping stone to other paths. But once the internship part of her program began, Wilkinson was hooked.

“I loved the work of it and the creative piece of it—working with students, working with people,” she said. “I felt like it gave me everything. It was rigorous, it was challenging. It felt like a job that had everything that I wanted.”

After graduating, while so many of her peers were trying to find jobs in larger city centres, Wilkinson snatched up an opportunity to return closer to her Prince Albert roots.

She took a full-time position in the nearby town of Kinistino, a small community of barely 1,000 people, and fondly recalls the four years she spent banding together with her colleagues in a cohort not too dissimilar from the one she’d known in university.

“Working in a small community is a wonderful way to start your career,” she said. “Everyone’s kind of in it together. I remember staying after school, going home for supper and then our group of teachers would go back to do a little work and play in the gym.”

While they enjoyed their time there, Wilkinson and her husband were soon ready for another challenge, and found themselves making the major adjustment from life in small-town Saskatchewan to one of the world’s biggest cities. She caught a lucky break, becoming one of the first people brought in under a new push for international hiring by the New York City Board of Education, landing an interview before recruiters had even started the job fair circuit.

But less than a month later, Sept. 11 changed everything.

“I remember walking, my husband and I, and burnt papers were falling on our feet from all that happened,” Wilkinson said. “We were right by the river, by the Brooklyn Bridge, and police cars and fire trucks were stopped, covered in soot. It was everywhere. It was like a war zone.”

Even her usually raucous classes, filled with inner-city high school students, were suddenly subdued.

“They weren’t showing that they were scared, but everyone was just quiet,” she said. “For the whole next week or two … it was like eight million people in silence, in mourning.”

An attack of such terrifying magnitude could have easily scared away recent arrivals, but Wilkinson and her husband dug in deeper, finding a shared sense of communal warmth and safety in the neighbours, colleagues, students—even strangers—that they walked shoulder-to-shoulder with through packed city streets.

“It’s weird to explain, but I think the majority of people still felt safe,” she said. “Things can happen, but it wasn’t like we ran scared. My husband and I never blinked once about not staying. It was our home.

“A lot of people do have roots there, but a lot of others don’t. So then the community and your neighbours become your family. I found a real sense of community there.”

Twelve years passed before Wilkinson and her family returned to Canada, tired of the daily grind and ready once again for a slower pace.

She expected to find another job teaching, but instead found a welcome role with her alma mater helping new generations of U of S students enter the exciting field of education, fresh-faced and unaware of the possibilities their degree might unlock for them.

“It was a job that I never even knew existed, but it has everything to do with being involved with schools—and then it’s also different, being involved at a bit of a different level, where I’m exposed to so many different classrooms, schools and areas,” she said. “I’ve loved it.”

HenryTye Glazebrook is a freelance writer and former U of S communications co-ordinator.
Liam Gray gazed in awe as his rocket shot skyward, its propulsion system stretching its reach to nearly 10 kilometres above Norway's coast.

And then, just as quickly, he watched via remote monitor as the projectile dropped with little more than a blip into the Arctic Ocean.

“It was over in a split second,” the University of Saskatchewan student said. “Those things go a lot faster than they look on TV. In that moment, it doesn’t really sink in. You just think about how cool it is, and now a few weeks out you can look back and appreciate it more. It’s just incredible.”

In his third year of engineering physics, Gray is one of four students from the U of S this fall who took part in CaNoRock, the Canada Norway Student Sounding Rocket Program.

CaNoRock has run annually since 2012, offering U of S students the unique opportunity to visit the Andoya Space Centre in Andenes, Norway, and experience designing, building, launching and collecting data from an actual rocket, with oversight from a team of dedicated, experienced professionals. The

CaNoRock program was recently expanded when College of Arts and Science Dean Peta Bonham-Smith signed a memorandum of understanding on Oct. 19 to renew the agreement and add a satellite research component (CaNoSat).

For Gray, the globe-trotting adventure was one of the highlights of his Physics 391 course, which takes students to Norway and back, building upon their experience after they return to Canadian soil.

“CaNoRock is the first step in a ladder of training opportunities for students,” said U of S associate professor Kathryn McWilliams, one of the founders of the CaNoRock exchange program. “It gives them a taste of what aerospace and space research and industry are like—multi-national teams, working on a challenging project, with a real deadline. It allows them to develop skills that they can use in the future, whether they go on to do further studies or work in industry.

“It’s a great program, and it’s nice to be able to give this opportunity to the top students at U of S. They really do rocket science.”

While Gray said he first looked into the program simply because it seemed like a “really cool” learning opportunity, he quickly realized just how much the course had to offer.

“You’re gaining experience that you would never get inside regular school programs, and you’re really, really, getting a chance to see what things will be like outside of school—to work directly on projects rather than doing something that’s completely set out in advance,” he said. “The connections you make and the people you meet over there are all great. It’s an experience you’re not going to get in school otherwise.”

For students like Gray, who already have one eye trained on life after university, it’s classes like these that provide the rare chance to explore big ideas, personal dreams and professional aspirations.

“My career path is definitely to work in the aerospace industry, whether that’s on rockets or on other things,” he said. “I think the class will definitely have a strong impact, even if the technical skills gained may not be directly involved. The critical thinking that I encountered, and the experience working with different people, will be directly applicable and will be really helpful outside of school.”
U of S retirees associations joining forces

HENRYTYE GLAZEBROOK

It stands to reason that a sudden 50 per cent increase in the University of Saskatchewan Retirees Association (USRA) membership would create both opportunities and challenges.

But for Thomas Wilson, who is president of the USRA and welcomed the members of the University of Saskatchewan Non-Academic Retirees Association (USNARA) into the newly expanded group, the move heralds far more hopeful possibilities than it does concerns.

“Our current luncheon meeting venue, for example, has a maximum capacity of 44 people, and we’ve been knocking at the door of that number for the past several months,” he said. “We may well outgrow that and find another place to host our luncheons and speaker meetings. The same goes with our June barbecue and the awards banquet, so we’ll be sure to keep an eye on that.

“They always say be careful what you wish for, but I think the overarching idea is that new members and new ways of looking at things will help us in looking at our mandates. There’s good and there’s challenges, but certainly the good parts outweigh the challenging ones.”

The USRA is a longstanding retirement group associated with the U of S, and was started as a means of promoting and safeguarding the interests of retirees and to provide a unifying bridge between its membership and the institution to which they devoted their careers.

The decision to dovetail the two organizations came as a result of the USNARA formally dissolving on Sept. 18. The USRA membership ultimately thought it better to bring the two groups together rather than risk seeing anyone fall through the cracks.

Former USRA president Judith Henderson, Mary Dykes and others led the negotiations, while University Secretary Beth Bilson donated her legal expertise, and the merger was completed.

Wilson said that the development will bring about few noticeable, immediate changes to the USRA, outside of a brief rewriting of its constitution to define membership as inclusive of retirees from outside of academia and the continuation of the USNARA pensions committee.

In the future, however, he said the door is very much open to more ideas for expansion, benefits and social gatherings.

“I know USNARA had weekly coffee meetings, I think at one of the malls here in town,” Wilson said.

“That seems like a perfectly reasonable idea, and I think that some new members may want to continue that. There are other ideas floating around that we may pursue as time goes on.”

In the end, Wilson said there’s no doubting that more people working together means better advantages for all.

“The opportunity to expand the number of members, I think, expands the number of good brains with good ideas for the organization moving forward,” he said. “The more good brains you have working on an idea, the more chances you have of solving it.”

HenryTye Glazebrook is a freelance writer and former U of S communications co-ordinator.

Research roundup:

NSERC SUPPORTS FERTILIZER REMEDIATION

University of Saskatchewan soil researcher Steven Siciliano has been awarded $1.65 million over six years by the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council’s (NSERC) Collaborative Research and Training Experience (CREATE) program to train a new cadre of scientists in sustainable food supply, “Fertilizer is key to a safe and sustainable food supply,” said Siciliano, NSERC/Co-op Industrial Engineering Research Council’s (NSERC) CREATE program, $4.47 million from federal and provincial government forage industries, and the Saskatchewen and federal governments, will unite livestock and forage laboratories and science labs in a collaborative centre with a total cost of $37.5 million.

“Fertilizer is key to a safe and sustainable food supply,” said Siciliano, NSERC/Co-op Industrial Research Chair in In Situ Remediation and Risk Assessment, who was awarded the funding Nov. 27.

“What the LFCE will take a holistic approach to understanding the relationship between human health, animal health and our environment,” Buhr said. “A&W’s extraordinary support is a demonstration of the power of teamwork to significantly improve the impact of innovative research and outreach on the livestock and forage industries.”

Douglas Freeman, dean of the Western College of Veterinary Medicine, said the development of the LFCE wouldn’t be possible without the extraordinary partnership.

“Two areas of preeminence at the U of S converge with the LFCE: agriculture and One Health,” he said. “The centre also represents a unique partnership between the university, government and industry. The scale of partnership and collaboration are extraordinary. Working together we can accomplish so much more and have a major impact on health, production and food security. We’re excited to develop this new partnership with A&W and work together to achieve the promise and potential of the LFCE.”

Two new facilities for the LFCE are expected to be completed in the spring of 2018 and will complement current livestock and forage research sites. The LFCE, a partnership between the U of S, the livestock and forage industries, and the Saskatchewan and federal governments, will unite livestock and forage field laboratories and science labs in a collaborative centre with a total cost of $37.5 million.

Other funding contributions to date include $10 million from the federal and provincial government through the Growing Forward 2 program, $4.47 million from Western Economic Diversification Canada, $10 million from the U of S, and $1 million from the Saskatchewan Cattlemen’s Association.

Roxanne McHattie is a development communications specialist in University Relations.

Funding enhances LFCE

FROM PAGE 2

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Roxanne McHattie is a development communications specialist in University Relations.
Here at On Campus News, we like to make things easier for you—whether it’s keeping you up-to-date with university news or suggesting places to spend your hard-earned money. That’s why for the fourth year in a row, we summoned members of the U of S marketing and communications team to search high and low for the best holiday gifts. Now you can shop for the pickiest, ficklest recipients, without stepping foot off campus. You’re welcome.

ANDY SARGENT, social media specialist
Q: Why didn’t the skeleton dance at the Christmas party?
A: He had no body to dance with!
No bones about it, this is the perfect gift for everyone on your list! I found this humerus (haha, get it?). From Shop usask Health Sciences.

JEFF DRAKE, director of marketing
Everyone loves the gift of music. Why not stuff someone’s stocking with rock ‘n’ roll show tickets—Red Fang at Louis’ on Friday, Jan. 19. The American doom metal/psychedelic rock quartet is making a stop in the Bridge City in conjunction with the 2018 Winterruption Festival. Plus, the opening band is local heavy metal heartthrobs Shooting Guns!

LESLEY PORTER, communications co-ordinator
The short days, lack of sunshine and freezing cold can be a real kick in the shins during this supposed most wonderful time of the year. But what unites us all during this gloomy period? That’s right—coffee. Starbucks gift cards are perfect for everyone, and can be conveniently purchased and redeemed at the on-campus location in the Murray Library. Even if the recipient doesn’t like coffee (!!!), hey, there are always cake pops.

JENNIFER THOMA, media relations specialist
Some people might shy away from wearing the same thing twice. But not you when it comes to finding this sweater under your tree. With a slight oversized fit and dropped shoulder, finished with a ribbed-knit detailing around the neck and cuffs, prepare for this classic vintage jumper to be the object of many obsessions this holiday season. Is it possible for something to be so simple, yet so great at the same time? This sweater can be purchased at the Shop usask Bookstore.

JAMES SHEWAGA, news editor
Nothing says Happy Holidays like getting a stack of Huskies tickets under the tree. From catching exciting basketball or volleyball action in the Physical Activity Complex, to supporting Huskie hockey teams in their historic final season in Rutherford Rink, you can catch the best of university sport for as little as $13 a game for adults. You can pick up tickets at the Huskie Box Office on game day, at the Shop usask store at Preston Crossing, or you can reserve your seats in advance by ordering online at huskies.usask.ca. See you at the game!

LESLIE PORTER, communications co-ordinator
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CHRIS MORIN, digital content co-ordinator
When did socks become so cool? We aren’t sure, and it might have something to do with those unsightly, twisted toes, but now that feet pajamas are super stylish there’s hardly a reason to complain when you pull out these stockings out of your, err, stocking. Check these ankle ticklers at Shop usask Arts.

LORI VERISHAGEN, publications officer
For the hard-to-buy-for kids on your shopping list, I recommend giving the gift of a holiday book! One of my favourites is Here Comes Santa Cat by Deborah Underwood. Cat has been naughty this year and fears he will not receive a gift from Santa. Can he change his ways in time for Christmas? Purchase your copy in-store or online from the Shop usask Bookstore to find out!

MALARY CLOKE, publications officer
Help someone stay cozy this winter by gifting them this modern edition of the classic U of S bunnyhug. Perhaps I’m a bit biased, having designed it, but I think it’s pretty great.

SHOP usask
HOLIDAY STORE HOURS
Starting Dec. 6 we will be open at our Preston Crossing location:
MONDAY-SATURDAY
9:30 am - 9 pm
SUNDAY
11 am - 5 pm

For the hard-to-buy-for kids on your shopping list, I recommend giving the gift of a holiday book! One of my favourites is Here Comes Santa Cat by Deborah Underwood. Cat has been naughty this year and fears he will not receive a gift from Santa. Can he change his ways in time for Christmas? Purchase your copy in-store or online from the Shop usask Bookstore to find out!

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An intoxicated female was discovered in a room and no injuries were reported, but a canister of bear spray in Room 136 Geology was suspected of being used. Officers arrived by Protective Services. If anybody has information regarding this incident, please contact Protective Services and reference file #ACT-2017-013574.

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### Registration open for Winter 2018 Conversational Language Classes

December, 2017–Feb. 2, 2018, Williams Building. Are you travelling to a Spanish-speaking country and want to learn some Spanish quickly in a comfortable setting? The following courses are all you need to travel to a Spanish-speaking destination and interact with the locals.

- Spanish Weekender: This low beginner Spanish program is ideal if you have little or no previous Spanish-speaking experience or exposure.
- Spanish Turista: This low intermediate Spanish program is ideal if you have some previous Spanish-speaking experience or exposure.

Courses run over the weekend, Friday (6:30 – 9 pm) and Saturday and Sunday (9 am – 5 pm). For more information, visit: ccderegister.usask.ca

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### Courses/Workshops

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Intensive French Immersion Course</td>
<td>December, 2017–Feb. 16, 2018, Williams Building.</td>
<td>Various</td>
<td>Comprehensive language courses designed to help students master their speaking, listening and grammar skills.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edwards School of Business Executive Education</td>
<td>For information, call 306-966-8668, email <a href="mailto:execed@edwards.usask.ca">execed@edwards.usask.ca</a> or visit: edwards.usask.ca/exceed</td>
<td>Various</td>
<td>Tailored courses for business professionals.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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### Incident Report:

The following is a list of recent incidents reported to U of S Protective Services. If you have any information about these, or any other incidents, please contact Protective Services at 306-966-5555.

**Fraud**

Protective Services was contacted on Nov. 8 with information regarding an individual who was suspected of using a stolen credit card to purchase items on campus. Officers searched through recorded video surveillance footage and provided all relevant information to the investigating officers from the Saskatoon Police Service.

**Intoxicated individual**

An intoxicated female was discovered in a washroom in Ellis Hall on Oct. 25. Protective Services arrived and believed the subject to be suffering from intoxication via drugs (prescription or otherwise), as no beverage alcohol odour was identified. Officers offered to engage medical staff and asked if the subject would like a ride home (via taxi or a free ride with Protective Services). The subject refused treatment and departed.

**Bike recovered**

While on patrol on Oct. 26 near Stadium Crescent, Protective Services identified a bike which appeared to match the description of one previously reported stolen. Officers seized the bike, confirmed its ownership with the recorded serial number, and reunited the bicycle with its owner.

**Bear spray**

A geology student accidentally released a canister of bear spray in Room 136 Geology on Nov. 2. No other individuals were in the room and no injuries were reported, but the area had to be vacated and the room had to be thoroughly cleaned before it could be re-accessed.
The University of Saskatchewan held its annual Remembrance Day wreath-laying ceremony at the Memorial Gates on Nov. 11. The multi-faith service commemorates those who have served and died in the Canadian Armed Forces.

The Memorial Gates were erected in 1928 as a monument in honour of the 69 students, staff and faculty of the U of S who perished in the First World War, with a Remembrance Day service held annually at the site for the past 89 years.

Around the Bowl

June Anonson appointed interim assistant dean, Prince Albert and the North, College of Nursing, for the period of July 1 to Dec. 31, 2017.

Cathy Arnold appointed director of the School of Rehabilitation Sciences, for five-year term, effective Jan. 1, 2018 to Dec. 31, 2022.

Angela Bedard-Haughn appointed head of the Department of Soil Science, College of Agriculture and Bioresources, for a five-year term, effective Oct. 1, 2017.

Lois Berry’s term as interim assistant vice-provost, health, extended for one year, effective Sept. 1, 2017 to Aug. 31, 2018.

Jamie Bugg’s term as interim associate dean, college operations in College of Engineering, extended for six months, effective January 1, 2018.

Dr. David Campbell’s term as unified head of Department of Anesthesiology, College of Medicine, extended for six months, effective July 1, 2017 to December 31, 2017.

David Cooper appointed assistant dean, graduate students, College of Medicine for a five-year term, effective July 1, 2017.

Trever Crowe named interim dean of College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies, for a period of up to one year, beginning September 1, 2017.

Soo Kim appointed acting director of the School of Physical Therapy, for a three-month term, effective Sept. 29 to Dec. 31, 2017.

Dr. Kathy Lawrence appointed Unified Head of Family Medicine, College of Medicine, for a five-year term, effective July 1, 2017.

Dr. Stephen Manning appointed acting associate dean, clinical programs, Western College of Veterinary Medicine, for the period of Aug. 1, 2017 to July 31, 2018.

Dr. Kathy Lawrence appointed Unified Head of Family Medicine, College of Medicine, for a five-year term, effective July 1, 2017.

Debbie Rolfe appointed acting director of the Graham School of Professional Development, College of Engineering, for a six-month term, effective July 1 to Dec. 31, 2017.

Dr. David Wilson appointed head of the Department of Large Animal Clinical Sciences, Western College of Veterinary Medicine, for five-year term, effective July 1, 2017.

Dr. Elisabeth Snead appointed associate dean, research and graduate studies, Western College of Veterinary Medicine, for five-year term, effective July 1, 2017.

Doug Surtees re-appointed associate dean, academic, College of Law, for five-year term, effective July 1, 2017.

Ryan Walker appointed acting associate dean, College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies, for the period of Aug. 15, 2017 to June 30, 2018.

Dr. David Wilson appointed head of the Department of Large Animal Clinical Sciences, Western College of Veterinary Medicine, for five-year term, effective July 1, 2017.

Pack your bags and set your sights on memory lane, because this year’s On Campus News back page features landmark moments and events from our storied 110-year history.

Have a particular event you’d like to see featured? Let us know about it at news@usask.ca.

With files from University Archives and Special Collections.

The Nobel Prize in Chemistry, Literature, Peace, Physics, and Physiology or Medicine is awarded every year in December.

Two renowned Nobel laureates have ties to the University of Saskatchewan—both in the field of chemistry.

Born in Hamburg, Gerhard Herzberg received his bachelor’s and doctoral degrees at Germany’s Darmstadt University of Technology, where he later served as a professor of molecular physics. He fled Nazi Germany in 1935 and, on the advice of John Spinks, a visiting scientist from Saskatoon, emigrated to Canada. He spent a decade at the U of S before moving to the University of Chicago, but ultimately returned to Canada in 1948 to head the physics division of the National Research Council.

In 1971, he was awarded the Nobel Prize “for his contributions to the knowledge of electronic structure and geometry of molecules, particularly free radicals.” He acknowledged the U of S in his acceptance speech, adding that he “had the full and understanding support of successive presidents and of the faculty of the university who, under very stringent conditions, did their utmost to make it possible for me to proceed with my scientific work.”

Hailing from the small farming town of Neudorf, Sask., Henry Taube received his bachelor’s and master’s degrees from the U of S. His master’s supervisor was none other than Spinks, and he studied alongside Herzberg as well. Following completion of his PhD at the University of California (Berkeley), he remained on campus for a short time before moving on to Cornell, the University of Chicago and Stanford.

In 1983—just 12 years after his former collaborator Herzberg was honoured—Taube won the Nobel Prize “for his studies of the mechanisms of electron transfer, reactions particularly of metal complexes.” He was the first Canadian-born chemist to win the Nobel prize, and is the only Saskatchewanian to win the prestigious award.