



On Campus News

ocn@usask.ca | news.usask.ca

90 years of collective wisdom

by COLLEEN MACPHERSON

The University Library is experiencing a loss this month, but not the kind that first comes to mind, like a rare volume. What the Library is losing is about 90 years of collective wisdom and experience shared by three retiring employees – Pat McFaul, Tammy Birns and Iris Owchar.

McFaul, Birns and Owchar are all moving on to new chapters in their lives after 22 years, 33 years and 35 years respectively serving the Library and the University of Saskatchewan community. They admit it's a change that comes with some anxiety; Owchar, for one, has been working here since she was 18 years old, a long time to devote to one employer in this day and age. But all three speak very highly of their experiences, relish their memories and are looking forward to what the future may hold.

McFaul's career began in 1989 when she joined what was then called the production department "where apparently 99.9 per cent of people in the Library started." The work involved ordering, processing and entering data of library materials. She then spent 10 years in the Natural Sciences



Retiring library employees, from left to right, Iris Owchar, Tammy Birns and Pat McFaul.

COLLEEN MACPHERSON

Library before moving to her current position in interlibrary loans.

Her work now is not unlike that of a detective, she said, searching the world for materials

to borrow from other libraries for clients. Her current quest is for an Iranian journal. There are few holdings anywhere and her most recent query with the National Library of Iran has

gone unanswered "but the search is the best part of my job."

What started out as a three-week term position in the cataloguing department became a 33-year career for Birns who went

on to work in the Health Science Library and the reference department before joining acquisitions, now called collection services.

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Leading the way in mobile technology

With work underway on a new version of the iUSASK app, the university is positioning itself at the head of the pack when it comes to mobile technology.

"For students, the capabilities they could have for their mobile devices could be transformative at universities," said Kevin Schneider, acting chief information officer and associate vice-president of information and communication technology, "and for the U of S, it's the one technology where we want to be leading the innovation."

Schneider, who is on leave from his position as vice-dean

of science in the College of Arts and Science, said the university's advances in development of the PAWS portal have laid the groundwork for providing students, and eventually faculty and staff, with the services they want and need on mobile devices. These include everything from laptops at one end of the scale to iPhones and tablet computers at the other, "devices that take advantage of location and time."

The difference between PAWS and mobile technology is that the web portal is dependent on content providers "but with mobile, the focus is more on

users." Information Technology Services (ITS) is set to begin focus group testing the revised app, looking to students to provide direction on what is of value to them. Schneider said the app is expected to be released next term.

Describing the new iUSASK, he said it is an integrated, user-centred design that allows students to get to information more easily. For example, instead of a button for classes, a button for exams and a button for messages, all of these functions will be incorporated in one easy-to-scroll view. Students will

also be able to customize the app like they can PAWS channels.

"It will also have an architecture that allows us to rapidly deploy new content over the next year."

There are a number of interesting trends that support the effort to focus on mobile technology, said Schneider. He cited studies that show university students are the fastest adopters of smart



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Research mentorship critical to success

Program builds networks of experienced, new faculty

✍ MICHAEL ROBIN

What makes for a successful university? According to researchers, it's high-quality space, time, funding, and above all, advice and support.

"The big issues are, 'I need a place to do my work, I need time and money to do it, and I need some mentoring and assistance in creating a path,'" says Jim Thornhill, who leads the research mentorship program on behalf of the Office of the Vice President Research and Office of the Provost and Vice President Academic.

The program kicked off with a mentorship workshop Nov. 4 in Convocation Hall attended by more than 120 faculty members. The event offered sessions on subjects such as time management and the importance of gathering critical mass through research clusters and teams. Breakout sessions dealt with discipline-specific questions from faculty working in health research, social sciences, humanities and fine arts, as well as natural, biomedical and engineering sciences.

Thornhill explains the impetus for the program came from the research, scholarly, and artistic community itself. He chaired one of 20 commitment groups exploring research success and collaboration as part of the integrated planning process. The group consulted widely over the course of a year,

“New faculty in particular were reporting that they were not getting good, consistent advice.”
Jim Thornhill

surveying graduate students, post-docs, young and established faculty, and non-faculty. Two questions were paramount: What makes you successful as a researcher? and What makes the university successful as a research institution?

"The recommendations that came back to us were pretty consistent," Thornhill says. "They told us they need quality time, research start-up packages, proper infrastructure, grant development help, proper help with grad supervision. But they were almost unanimous in telling us there is a need for consistent and sustained research mentorship. New faculty in particular were reporting that they were not getting good, consistent advice."

Mentorship programs are common in business, government and industry as a way to foster and keep the best people, but it is uncharted territory for an academic institution. Thornhill explains that the thinking behind this has been that research is so specific that mentorship must be done at the department or college level.

That said, there is clearly a role for university administration to make mentorship a priority, including learning best practices from leading research-intensive universities. This role must also fit the university structure and culture, which suggests a collaborative approach.

"We think we can assist without being prescriptive," Thornhill says. "We can provide guidance and support while the colleges and departments develop their own ways of doing it."

To deliver this, the mentorship program is envisaged as a continuous process, with twice-yearly workshops to bring together faculty to share ideas and set priorities (the next one is scheduled for April 13, 2012). One nascent idea is to create a mentorship committee to work with each new faculty member, laying out goals and expectations in a five-year development plan. Each committee would be tailored to the faculty member, for example including department leadership and colleagues with similar expertise.

There is much at stake, says



Thornhill

Thornhill. Ideally, faculty are hired for the long term, so it pays to invest time in the success of new faculty – defined as within five years of hire. Experienced faculty also have much to offer as mentors and can use the same services to expand and enhance their own networks.

"Our faculty are hired for three things. They bring us their knowledge and skill sets, and their ability to create knowledge. They disseminate that knowledge to our students. And, they have the ability to inspire our students that creating knowledge is

something that is exciting and something to be pursued."

Support for this teacher-scholar model is already well advanced on the teaching side with programs offered through the Gwenna Moss Centre for Teaching Effectiveness, he explained. The hope is the new mentorship program will grow to offer the same level of support on the research, scholarship, and artistic work side of the equation. ■

Michael Robin is communications specialist in Research Communications.



Hockey legend Gordie Howe received an honorary Doctor of Laws at 2010 Spring Convocation.

Honouring the very best

An honorary degree is the highest honour the university can bestow. Acceptance of an honorary degree by a candidate brings recognition to both the recipient and the University.

The honorary degree committee of the U of S Senate is asking members of the university community to consider nominating honorary degree recipients for convocation ceremonies in 2012 and beyond.

Nominees should be distinguished persons who have made an eminent contribution to scholarship, education, the arts or public service in Canada or internationally. Nominations that are time-sensitive or are related to university or college activities such as reunions, conferences or integrated planning initiatives should be noted.

For more information and a copy of the nomination form and guidelines, visit www.usask.ca/university_secretary/senate/hon_degrees.php or call (306) 966-4635.

Please send your nominations to Lea Pennock, University Secretary, Room 212 College Building.

iUSASK to integrate other initiatives

From Page 1

phone technology, and surveys of people in comparable positions to his who indicate mobile technology ranks near the top of their issues priority list.

A key to the university's success with mobile technology will be listening to users. "We're still trying to understand what's going to be useful, what's going to be valuable ... but we're doing this in a way that will help us know what students want." What is known is that it must be something different, "interesting opportunities you don't get from the desktop experience like communications – Facebook, Twitter – and location-aware services that will help you find a room or a building.

"And we haven't even scratched the surface of pedagogical approaches like course evaluations using mobile devices or exams on iPads."

The new iUSASK will also easily integrate mobile technology initiatives being



Schneider

developed in colleges and units across campus, bring all services together for students, faculty and staff.

As ITS prepares to launch iUSASK, it is also building a new website that Schneider calls All Things Mobile at the U of S. The site will list and describe the university's mobile-friendly website, mobile supports for programs like Safewalk as well as other mobile services. That site should be ready this month. ■

Degree-tracking software rolls out

The university has begun releasing its new degree-auditing program which, in combination with academic advising, will help ensure students are on the right path to the qualification they want.

Jamie McCrory, manager and assistant registrar for student information systems (SIS), said academic advisors in the College of Agriculture and Bioresources were given access to DegreeWorks in the summer, and it was made available to undergraduate students in that college in September. Essentially, it is an online student advising system “that matches students’ courses completed and in progress with degree requirements,” he explained. And although all students will

eventually have their degree progress information through the program, the intention is to enhance the work of academic advisors on campus, not replace them.

The software has been in development longer than expected, said McCrory, largely due to the work of building in every course, pre-requisite and degree requirement. Working closely with advisors in each college, the SIS team discovered unwritten rules and ambiguities in the university’s official calendar that had to be sorted out.

“We started in April 2009 and expected to be done in one year,” he said. “We thought there were about 600 combinations (of requirements) but

it turned out there were about 1,600. There are many different ways of getting what seems to be the same qualification.”

The program also has to be built “back into the past for students who are two or three years into their degree,” he added. The \$2 million cost of DegreeWorks is associated mostly with staff time.

To access the program, students will use a link in PAWS, “which will be called something like Map Your Degree Progress.” Data for individual students is pulled automatically from the larger information system and will show which requirements have been met and which are still outstanding. Armed with this basic information, “students will be ready to talk seriously to an advisor. For advisors, this should make their interactions with student more meaningful and it will free them from the more mundane work of looking up degree requirements.”

The uptake among the first students to use DegreeWorks has been good so far, said McCrory, with about 200 logins per week “but there’s some novelty associated with it at first.”

On Nov. 24, academic



Jamie McCrory

COLLEEN MACPHERSON

advisors in the College of Arts and Science will be able to access the program, and it will be available to all undergraduates in that college by the end of January. All graduate students and advisors are next on the list;

they will be able to use DegreeWorks starting in February. Other colleges will follow, said McCrory, but the schedule will depend on the SIS team’s ability to do testing and advisor training. ■

U of S alumni elected as MLAs



Premier Brad Wall is one of 20 U of S alumni elected to the provincial legislature.

The Nov. 7 provincial election returned many familiar faces to the Saskatchewan legislature along with some new ones. It also increased the number of sitting MLA who are graduates of the U of S to 20 from seven in the previous legislative assembly. Below are the U of S alumni who are sitting MLAs:

- Cam Broten** (Saskatoon Massey Place) – BA 2002
- Jennifer Campeau** (Saskatoon Fairview) – MBA 2009
- The Hon. Ken Cheveldayoff** (Saskatoon Silver Springs) – BA 1988
- Kevin Doherty** (Regina Northeast) – BA 1985
- David Forbes** (Saskatoon Centre) – PGD 1993; MEDUC 1996
- The Hon. Jeremy Harrison** (Meadow Lake) – LLB 2004
- Glen Hart** (Last Mountain-Touchwood) – BSA 1968
- The Hon. Darryl Hickie** (Prince Albert Carlton) – BA 1999
- Victoria Jurgens** (Prince Albert Northcote) – BA 1991; BSNT 1992
- The Hon. Ken Krawetz** (Canora Pelly) – BED 1975
- Gene Makowsky** (Regina Dewdney) – BED 1997
- Scott Moe** (Rosthern-Shellbrook) – BSA 1997
- The Hon. Don Morgan** (Saskatoon Southeast) – LLB 1978
- Russell Marchuk** (Regina Douglas Park) – BA 1969
- Roger Parent** (Saskatoon Meewasin) – BUSADM 1982
- Catherine Sproule** (Saskatoon Nutana) – BED 1985; LLB 1994; BA 1994
- Corey Tochor** (Saskatoon Eastview) – BCOMM 2000
- Premier Brad Wall** (Swift Current) – BA 1987
- Randy Weekes** (Biggar) – AGRIC 1976
- Gordon Wyant** (Saskatoon Northwest) – BA 1985; LLB 1986

Wall is one of three Canadian premiers who are U of S alumni. The others are Darrell Pasloski, premier of Yukon, who earned a pharmacy degree in 1982, and Alberta’s Alison Redford who graduated from the College of Law in 1988. ■

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Entering the computer age

✍ PATRICK HAYES, U OF S ARCHIVES



U of S Archives, A-8972.

For many in the 1960s and 70s, the first contact with computers was the Optical Mark Recognition system (also called Optical Mark Reading and OMR). It was a process of capturing human-marked data from document forms such as surveys and tests. This opened the option of automated marking of multiple choice tests and exams

for professors.

IBM was granted a patent in 1960 and offered the IBM 1230 Optical mark scoring reader in 1962. Originally the system was quite limited with a test maximum of 80 questions. Using an HB pencil, students would blank-out the circles on special pre-printed answer sheet.

In the accompanying photo, we have two unidentified women working with an IBM automated exam marker at the University of Saskatchewan in February 1966. The woman on the right is feeding the exam papers into the machine where they are scanned. The second woman gathers the results in the form of computer punch cards. ■

Public gratitude deserved

The genesis of Professor Findlay's viewpoint (November 4, OCN) lies in my praise of Mr. Norris's work as minister responsible for post-secondary education at a university event celebrating the construction of the two new health sciences buildings on our campus. I did so in comparative terms, not to be critical of his predecessors but rather to highlight the fact that Mr. Norris's tenure represented an important turning point for this vital portfolio. My appointment as president has overlapped with eight, count them, eight of his predecessors. Before him, there was a new ministerial appointment on an average of every year. Mr. Norris, by contrast, served four years in the portfolio thereby bringing stability, understanding and supportive dialogue to the evolution of public policy in this area.

Letter

It matters. The future of Saskatchewan greatly depends on the success of post-secondary education, and in particular on the success of the University of Saskatchewan. We are the province's only medical-doctoral university. We educate most of Saskatchewan's professional people. We are by far the single largest research institution in the province (and twelfth in Canada with 2010 research income of \$184,756,000). The evolution of sound public policy in this area requires a robust, well-informed conversation, reasonable continuity, and a focus on success. You cannot have that conversation with ministers that turn over every year or so. We did have that conversation with Mr. Norris and the University of Saskatchewan is stronger because of it. I hope that current and future leaders of our province will ensure that the portfolio will continue to receive the supportive attention he devoted to it.

So, Mr. Norris deserved my public expression of gratitude. Whatever may be the different views on subsequent use of my words, there should be no mistaking the significance of the change that he represented in the cabinet portfolio responsible for post-secondary education. ■

*Peter MacKinnon
President, University of Saskatchewan*

ocn Publishing Schedule

No.	Issue Date	Deadline Date
8	Dec. 2	Nov. 24
9	Jan. 13, 2012	Jan. 5, 2012
10	Jan. 27	Jan. 19
11	Feb. 10	Feb. 2
12	March 2	Feb. 23
13	March 16	March 8
14	March 30	March 22

ocn On Campus News

On Campus News is published 18 times per year by University of Saskatchewan Communications. It is distributed to all U of S faculty, staff, graduate students and members of governing bodies, as well as to others in the university community, related organizations, some Saskatchewan government officials and news media. Subscriptions are available for \$22 per year. Story and photo ideas are welcome. Advertising rates are available online or on request. *On Campus News* aims to provide a forum for the sharing of timely news, information and opinions about events and issues of interest to the University of Saskatchewan community.

The views and opinions expressed by writers of letters to the editor and viewpoints do not necessarily reflect those of the University of Saskatchewan or *On Campus News*.

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ISSN: 1195-7654

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Graduate school receives CDC recognition

by MARK FERGUSON

The School of Public Health (SPH) at the University of Saskatchewan is the first program in the country to be recognized by the Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), a move that will allow researchers, students and staff to work closely with the American-based health centre.

"As we are just beginning our relationship with the CDC, it will open up more doors for health scientists and faculty throughout the university," said Robert Buckingham, executive director of SPH. "This is not just a good opportunity for the School of Public Health, but for the Western College of Veterinary Medicine and the Colleges of Medicine, Pharmacy and Nutrition, Nursing, and VIDO-InterVac too."

The recognition came after a series of conversations and procedures, and finally a visit to the U of S by CDC representatives earlier in the fall. Shortly after the visit, the CDC let Buckingham and the SPH know that they would be a recognized school and the first in Canada with the honour.

"The CDC serves the interests of the public on viruses, biological warfare, and health



Robert Buckingham

by MARK FERGUSON

issues that do not just effect the US, but the entire world, and for that we are grateful to have an opportunity to share information from here in Saskatoon."

The acknowledgment will also provide an opportunity to share resources and even allow students to work and complete practicum opportunities in the CDC headquarters in Atlanta, Georgia.

As a recognized institution, SPH can send students for their 12-week practicum at the CDC, an opportunity Buckingham says will look very good on a resume and will provide students with a fairly decent remuneration for their practicum as well (in the

neighbourhood of \$8,000).

Buckingham explained that getting the attention of the CDC was important to bolster the reputation of the school, part of its effort to become the best school of public health in Canada.

"We are the third-largest public health school in Canada and the school with the largest percentage of international students with around 35 per cent of our total enrolment," said Buckingham. "We are growing as a school and we have a mission to be a leader in public health graduate education and prevention of disease in human and animal populations in Canada." ■

Footprints from the past



Tegopelte gigas

by SUBMITTED

U of S and Royal Ontario Museum researchers have identified Tegopelte as the maker of fossilized footprints that date back half a billion years to the Cambrian period.

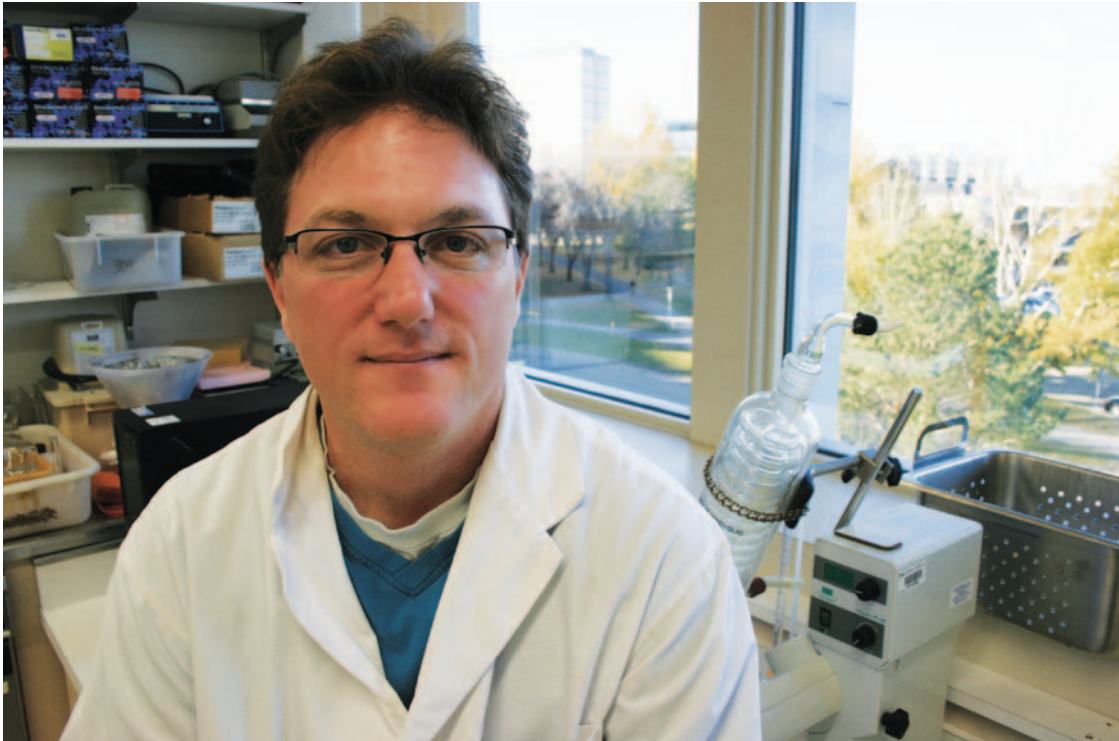
Nicholas Minter, U of S post-doctoral research fellow in geological sciences and lead author on the study, said the

creature was identified using a three-metre long trackway discovered in B.C.'s Burgess Shale, which contains a wealth of fossils of ancient underwater creatures. By analyzing Tegopelte fossils and the trackways, the researchers were able to discern how the creature moved across the seafloor.

Read the full story about Tegopelte at news.usask.ca ■

Peer-reviewed publishing goes online

✦ COLLEEN MACPHERSON



Tim Dumonceaux, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada scientist and adjunct professor of veterinary microbiology

COLLEEN MACPHERSON

“It’s challenging as a scientist because most of us are not used to being in front of the camera ...”

Tim Dumonceaux

Tim Dumonceaux is no stranger to publishing his research in peer-reviewed journals but his recent experience with the Journal of Visualized Experiments (JoVE) was certainly like no other.

What JoVE does is publish research online accompanied by video. For Dumonceaux, a research scientist with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and adjunct professor in the Department of Veterinary Microbiology, explaining his work in front of a camera “was a different way to spend a day but there’s nothing like it for people trying to reconstruct a lab protocol. It’s a thousand times better than reading the materials and methods section of a journal article.”

Dumonceaux had never heard of JoVE.com when he was contacted by one of its science editors late in 2010. The website wanted him to produce a video that would be peer reviewed but would also include detail not

generally associated with print articles, namely “the stuff that doesn’t work. Things that went wrong are important when people want to reproduce the work.”

Along with colleagues grad student Jennifer Town, Janet Hill and Bonnie Chanban of veterinary microbiology, and Sean Hemmingsen of the NRC’s Plant Biotechnology Institute, Dumonceaux agreed. JoVE offered to write the script, supply the video crew and do the voice-over for a fee of about \$3,500 including an open access fee. That was, until JoVE discovered exactly where Saskatoon is located. With no JoVE crew within driving range, it then became an author-produced video, explained Dumonceaux, who envisioned “amateur hour with me using the camcorder I use to film my kids.”

With financial support from the U of S publications fund, the group teamed up with Media Access and Production (eMAP) “to get a level of professionalism

that would be really helpful.” Dumonceaux wrote the script based on the lab protocol, and it took a full day in April to shoot the 12-minute video in two different labs in the Western College of Veterinary Medicine. Dumonceaux provided the voice-over while Town demonstrated the protocol. The challenge, he said, “was trying to do it correctly but in such a way that’s you’re not blocking the camera shot.” And there were some concessions made to the video format. “You can’t show a 40-minute incubation,” so the video compresses the process, not unlike a cooking show where a cake goes into oven and, after a short commer-

cial break, comes out completely baked.

“We tweaked the video to make sure it was accurate and hopefully informative,” said Dumonceaux, and eMAP synchronized his pre-recorded voice-over with the video footage “to make sure what’s happening in the narrative corresponds to what’s happening on screen.”

The completed video, entitled Multiplex Detection of Bacteria in Complex Clinical and Environmental Samples using Oligonucleotide-coupled Fluorescent Microspheres (the research itself is a whole other story), was then submitted to JoVE for peer review. Within a month, the comments of reviewers were back.

“They picked up on some mistakes and problems but more importantly, they wanted some changes to the video. That’s where eMAP was invaluable, reworking the footage. I felt the peer reviewers did a great job of helping us make a good video.”

The final version was posted on JoVE.com Oct. 23 and has since had more than 3,500

views although a subscription is required to see the entire video.

The posting includes a comments section, allowing the author to respond to viewers’ questions, “another way to provide clarity.”

Overall, Dumonceaux is positive about the experience, and about what the video format offers to both researchers and those wanting to duplicate a lab protocol. “It’s challenging as a scientist because most of us are not used to being in front of the camera but you can spend days trying to reconstruct a protocol. This way, you can see exactly what to do. And although I felt and look awkward in the video, I benefit because I’m getting a peer-reviewed publication out of it.”

This is the second U of S video posted on JoVE.com. The first went up Sept. 24 and is the work of Najia Xu, Xi Lei and Lixin Liu, all of the Department of Pharmacology. Their publication is entitled Tracking Neutrophil Intraluminal Crawling, Transendothelial Migration and Chemotaxis in Tissue by Intravital Video Microscopy. ■

Go to news.usask.ca to take a look at the video.

Campus Incidents

Selected incidents reported by the Department of Campus Safety. Report all information about these and other incidents to Campus Safety at 966-5555.

Oct. 31-Nov. 6

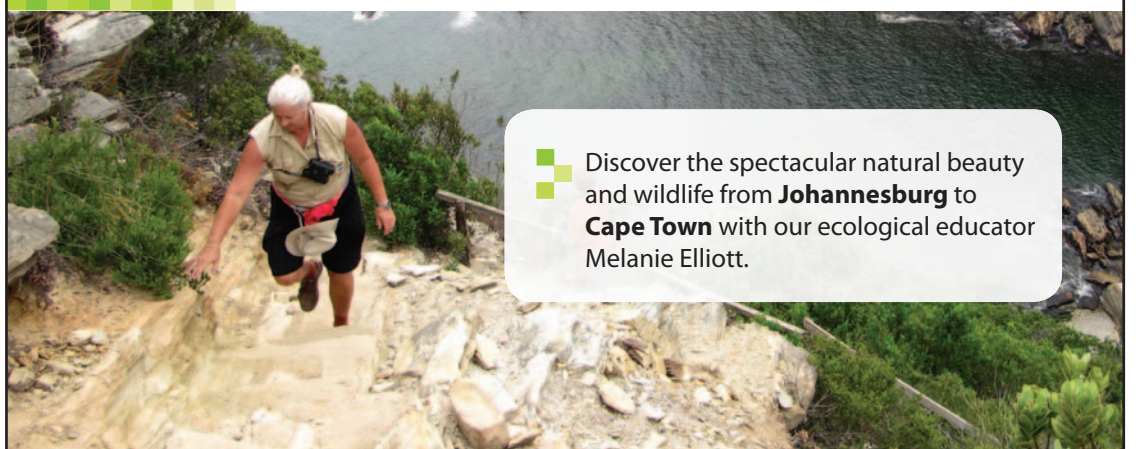
- Officers issued the following tickets:
 - 3 for speeding
 - 1 for having alcohol in public
 - 4 for disobeying a stop sign
 - 1 for using a cell phone while driving
- Three vehicles were broken into on Nov. 1. Damage to vehicles consisted of smashed windows in order for culprit(s) to gain entry. Numerous personal items were stolen.
- Bikes were stolen from Assiniboine Hall, Engineering and Agriculture.
- Damage was done at St. Andrews by an unknown culprit ripping a sink off the wall in a washroom.

Nov. 7-13

- Officers issued the following tickets:
 - 1 for having an obscured view
 - 1 for having no driver’s license
- Lockers in Health Sciences and Arts were broken into; laptops, personal items were stolen.
- One male was taken to hospital with alcohol poisoning. He had consumed large amounts of alcohol celebrating his 19th birthday.
- Graffiti was reported in a washroom in St. Thomas More College.
- Officers seized a small amount of marijuana, which was turned over to the city police.

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To reserve your spot call 966.5539.
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ccde.usask.ca/edtours

Building the university's front door

Advancement sets up outreach, engagement offices

✦ COLLEEN MACPHERSON

“The purpose of these offices is to create a facilitation mechanism to help community to connect with the university and the university to connect with community”

Heather Magotiaux

The university's focus on outreach and engagement is getting a boost with the establishment of two new offices within University Advancement that are designed to create a front door to the institution.

Part of the Academic Innovation Initiatives recently announced by the Provost's Committee on Integrated Planning, the new Office of Aboriginal Engagement and the Office of Community Outreach and Engagement are an effort to make it easier for faculty to connect with communities and visa versa. “The goal is to provide a place for people

to call as a starting point,” explained Heather Magotiaux, vice-president of advancement.

The offices are part of the response to the Foundational Document on Outreach and Engagement, said Magotiaux, and follow up on the work of the Senate Roundtable on Outreach and Engagement. That body was set up “to help identify some of the opportunities and barriers that might exist toward greater engagement with communities – geographic communities and sectors like health, the arts or business.” One key finding was the lack of what Magotiaux termed a front door for the



Heather Magotiaux, vice-president of advancement

AMANDA MAGOTIAUX

University of Saskatchewan.

“The university doesn't have a physical front door. A virtual front door makes sense for some ... but if you're a member of one of these small communities, it's sometimes confusing to know where you would go to find faculty expertise, or where you would go if you wanted a group of students to work on an experiential learning opportunity with your organization.

“The purpose of these offices is to create a facilitation mechanism to help community to connect with the university and the university to connect with community.”

Magotiaux went on to define outreach activities as initiatives that take the university out into the community; workshops and presentations

are two examples. “Engagement,” she said, “is you coming in to us,” including through community-based research.

While the two new offices are expected to do similar kinds of work, “we did want to make a particular emphasis around First Nations and Métis engagement to show our partners in those communities that we're serious about wanting to engage with them.” That office, directed by Candace Wasacase-Lafferty, will be located on the English River First Nation just south of Saskatoon. (Please see story page 11.)

The Office of Community Outreach and Engagement will be headed by a yet-to-be-named special advisor, “a faculty member already involved in community-based

Editor's Note: This photo of Heather Magotiaux was taken by her daughter Amanda who was on campus Nov. 3 for Take Our Kids to Work Day and participated in an OCN interview in her mom's office.

research, someone who places a high priority on experiential learning and is experienced in the area themselves,” said Magotiaux. “Their job will be to help reach out to other faculty members.” That office will be located at Station 20 West Community Enterprise Centre near St. Paul's Hospital. The space is expected to be available in July.

Magotiaux said the advantage of creating the two offices within University Advancement has to do with

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eMAP

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More pictures and info www.woutersrealty.com

Workshop makes sense of the 'madness'

by COLLEEN MACPHERSON

It's one thing to get a large grant for a research project but it takes a particular set of skills to run that project as efficiently and effectively as possible.

It is just those skills that will be the subject of three upcoming workshops being offered to researchers, two to be held at the U of S and the third at the University of Regina. Called A Method to the Madness: Successfully Managing a Research Project, the workshop has been developed by those in the midst of a major project who want to share what they have learned.

Tracy Ridalls with the Saskatchewan Population Health and Evaluation Research

Unit is the manager of Smart Cities, Healthy Kids, a major three-year research project that recently received a Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) knowledge translation grant. Part of the grant application, she explained, was for "teach-ins" to create opportunities to share project management know-how.

"There are lots of workshops for grant writing, for learning how to get funding but nobody really tells you how to run a project," she said. "And you've got to spend that money wisely. What's important is that you want people to do good work, not get lots of funding and become stuck."

Among the topics being

covered in the workshop are creating effective partnerships with stakeholders, the art of recruiting and retaining participants, identifying potential problems "before they become actual disasters," team building and communication.

"Not everybody is a born organizer," said Ridalls, "so it can be a real challenge to, for example, recruit 2,000 children for a study, or phase in new research assistants."

Evidence of the desire for skill-building opportuni-

ties like this came when the workshop was first advertised. Ridalls said the first event in Saskatoon filled within 12 hours of being announced. A second was scheduled for the U of S and another in Regina. All are now full, and the waiting list includes some 100 names. "Please don't call," she added with a laugh.

A pre-workshop survey of registered participants identified four main areas of interest – organizational skills, people skills, dissemination skills

and money skills. As part of their approach to addressing all of these, Ridalls and her colleagues developed a board game they call Researchopoly. Played in teams, the game presents humorous research project scenarios. As the teams progress around the board, they are presented with the various barriers and problems researchers could encounter.

"We'll give good examples of bad things," said Ridalls. "The idea is to help people get the most out of their projects." ■



Tracy Ridalls with the game pieces for Researchopoly.

COLLEEN MACPHERSON

News Briefs

MCAT revisions

WASHINGTON – The Association of American Medical Colleges has released final recommendations for proposed revisions to the Medical College Admission Test (MCAT).

The association website says the changes will focus on beside manner by including in the test new sections on the psychological, social and biological foundations of behaviour, and on critical analysis and reasoning skills. Featured topics include ethics, psychology and population health, an effort to encourage applicants to "read broadly in the humanities and social sciences." The new exam eliminates a writing section and includes an updated natural sciences section.

Enrolment suspended

KINGSTON – A shortage of resources is cited as the reason for Queen's University to suspending enrolment in its Bachelor of Fine Arts program for 2012-13, said a news report in the *Globe and Mail*.

Last year, the program unexpectedly had 46 students accept offers of admission, said the newspaper report. That is about 50 per cent more than the desired capacity for the program, forcing administrators to shift some students to space in another building and raising the program's costs substantially. The university, while not committing to the program's future, said it would continue

to assess its status. Current students will be able to complete their degrees without interruption.

School merger

WINDSOR – The University of Windsor senate has approved the merger of the schools of music and visual arts into a single administrative unit.

The university website reports that the new unit, which is yet to be named, will deliver existing programs in the two disciplines as well as new programs in film production, sound and interdisciplinary arts. There will also be an option for students to design their own interdisciplinary degrees.

Northern university

WHITEHORSE – According to a promise made during the recent election campaign, newly sworn in Yukon premier Darrell Pasloski will push for the territory to take the lead in founding a university in Canada's Arctic.

The Nunatsiqa Online website reports Pasloski, who assumed office Nov. 5, said his Yukon Party will work toward developing Yukon College into a northern university based on a model suitable for territory residents and other northerners. The first step will be identifying Crown land on which to build additional university facilities like a proposed centre for northern innovation in mining. Prior to the Oct. 11 elec-

tion, Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut has been in talks about creating a pan-Arctic university.

Business destination

TORONTO – Canada has become the third most popular global destination for graduate business education, according to a reported release recently by the U.S. Graduate Management Admission Council.

The number of Graduate Management Admission Test scores sent to Canadian business schools hit a record high of 28,494 in June 2011, up slightly from the previous year, said a *Globe and Mail* story. Of that total, 57 per cent were from abroad. Only the United States and United Kingdom receive more test scores.

Department expanded

CALGARY – Mount Royal University has unveiled the \$25-million expansion to its science department, which officials expect will give students a leg up on graduate work or work in the private sector.

The new facility includes seven high-tech labs, expanded research space and more than 40 new faculty offices, said the *Calgary Herald*. The project was funded by the province, the federal government and Encana, which contributed \$1.5 million to create the Institute of Sustainability and the Environment to support research into renewable resources.

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Collection launched

Guest MCs Miss Philomena Flynn-Flawn and Mr. Seymour Arthur Whipping (aka Mr. Whips) joined History professor Valerie Korinek at the launch Nov. 2 of the University library's newest special collection. The Neil Richards Collection of Sexual and Gender Diversity contains rare titles, including LGBT periodicals, books by Canadian authors, queer mystery and detective fiction, and titles that predate the Stonewall Riots of 1969, which marked the start of the gay liberation movement. All the materials are accessible on the online catalogue.

DAVID BINDLE



Making the most of the sun

MARK FERGUSON

Researchers at the U of S are working to develop more efficient and cheaper photovoltaic solar cells that could help solve global energy problems.

Ron Steer, who has been a professor in the Department of Chemistry since 1969, thinks he and his colleagues Matt Paige, Tim Kelly, Ian Burgess and Rob Scott have found a way to turn traditionally brittle and inefficient cells into robust, sturdy sources of energy. And it makes sense that their work is taking place here: Steer mentions the number of sunlight hours that several places around the planet get annually and at the top of that list is Southern Saskatch-

ewan and Alberta, which each receive around 2,500 hours of bright sunshine per year, or about 1,361 Kwh.

According to Steer, there are two main types of photovoltaic cells that harness this sunlight and convert it into usable electricity. The first is an inorganic cell, or the kind found on the NASA space station for example. While efficient, these cells are very expensive, and this is the main reason why inorganic cells are not used regularly.

The other kind is an organic cell. Made from organic materials, these cells are far less expensive but also less efficient.

This is where Steer is hoping to make progress, turning organic cells that are comparatively inefficient and fragile into long-lasting sources of energy.

While some of the more expensive NASA-type inorganic cells can convert 40 per cent or more of the sun's energy into electricity, an inorganic cell tops out at around 10 per cent, and this number has changed very little over the past 20 years despite heroic efforts, Steer adds.

"We have proof of our principle that indicates we can make a more affordable and reliable cell, but how efficient will the cells be compared to



Ron Steer, professor of chemistry

MARK FERGUSON

ones that already exist, that's the part we're hoping to succeed with. If we can achieve even the slightest increase, even one or two per cent efficiency of these cells, it could be beneficial to everyone."

Making the cells more efficient is a matter of converting the spectrum of light.

"Essentially, if you take blue light in the visible part of the spectrum, this works well in solar cells. If you take infrared, this does not work well. So, what we've discovered is a way to convert the infrared light

into blue light."

The next steps in the process will be creating cells at the U of S and testing the research principles. If the cells work, it could revitalize the solar industry and turn the sunniest place on the planet into a working grid of solar energy.

"For me, these ideas are based on my 31 years of research in this field and there are a number of ways we can improve on current organic cells... We have the proof of principle and soon we'll be at the stage of having working cells." ■

Schooling the World: The White Man's Last Burden

Screening and Discussion
Thursday, November 24, 2011
4 – 6:30 PM
Arts 241 (Neatby-Timlin)

Schooling the World: The White Man's Last Burden is a 2010 documentary film directed by Carol Black about "the role played by modern education in the destruction of the world's last sustainable indigenous cultures."

This controversial documentary film examines the effects of imposing western/ European ways of knowing upon the traditional Buddhist culture of Ladakh in the northern Indian Himalayas. It is a film, in the words of Bill Bigelow (Rethinking Schools), that "every teacher and prospective teacher should watch and discuss."

Come and share your views as a student, educator, or administrator in the discussion that will follow the screening of the film.

For more information on *Schooling the World* visit schoolingtheworld.org/film

Registration is not required but appreciated. Please register at www.usask.ca/gmcte/events

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Students lend support to store project

by BOB FLORENCE

Tianda Dranchuk is seeing Saskatoon like she has never seen it before.

Dranchuk, a third-year student from Calgary, is in a class at the University of Saskatchewan that is helping to launch Good Food Junction. The grocery store is scheduled to open next summer as part of Station 20 West on Avenue K and 20th Street, bringing a fresh look to Riversdale and giving the neighbourhood a lift.

"I come from a fortunate family," said Dranchuk. "To have nothing in the fridge, be stretched for food, is something I haven't experienced." But she said she is waking up and smelling the coffee.

She and five other students in her class — Brent Baranieski, Daniel Boszak, Brittany Elliot, Michael Seib and Kyle Slobodian — are spreading the word. They make posters. They've had an information booth in the pedestrian tunnel to the Arts Building. Soon they will go door-to-door in Riversdale and talk to people about the new food store.

This neighbourhood, one of the oldest in Saskatoon, has a rainbow of ethnic cultures. It has single parents and residents with low incomes but it doesn't have a grocery store.

"In a province that exports \$22 billion in food, 10 per cent of our population can't afford to eat healthy," said Tom Allen, an associate professor in the College of Agriculture and Bioresources. "Eating in a confectionery, a mother taking a 20-pound bag of potatoes home on the bus, we can't have that."

Allen is a friend of Ralph Winterhalt, the business manager of Good Food Junction. Together, they are encouraging students to get in on the action. While Dranchuk and crew are the project leaders, more than 40 students in a class Allen teaches on being an entrepreneur are on the team.

"If what we do isn't reflected in the grade we get, fine," said

Dranchuk. "Maybe it affects one family. That's worth it for me. It's the warm feeling I get in my heart."

Baranieski feels the same way.

Raised in Speers, southeast of North Battleford, he volunteered to be a guide with a group called Quetzaltrappers. It gives mountain tours in Central America, including seeing an active volcano. Trips range from being one day long to a week, with money supporting a children's school and dormitory in the region.

"I experienced Guatemala," said Baranieski. "I hope to learn more about people in my own country. People here need help as well. This isn't sympathy, it's empathy. Access to good food should be a right, not a privilege."

Good Food Junction is a co-op. For \$5, a person can buy a lifetime membership and have a say in how the store is run. The store is big on local flavour, from the produce in the aisles to the staff at the counter.

Dranchuk puts in more than 15 hours a week, going to group meetings and planning promotions for the store. She and the group are going to help

sell store memberships. That's on top of the time she spends on school and playing for the Huskies soccer team.

"I've never been one to talk with people I don't know, but I'm going outside the box with this," she said. "When people ask about Good Food Junction, I tell them about it. Boy, I'm glad I got into this. We're not doing anything huge, but hopefully we're making a little difference."

Baranieski said volunteering with the Good Food Junction project reminds him of a North Saskatoon Business Association event he went to. The guest speaker talked about his father's funeral, saying a lot of people at the service were wearing sport jerseys. Turns out supplying a club with jerseys is something his dad did, so wearing them at the funeral was the team's way of saying thanks. "I'm raised in a family focused on giving, who say giving without praise is the best form of giving," said Baranieski. "I don't care if anyone ever knows what I've done (with Good Food Junction). If a mother is able to access food — that's what matters."



The Good Food crew are, from left to right, Michael Seib, Brittany Elliot, Daniel Boszak, Brent Baranieski, Tianda Dranchuk and Kyle Slobodian.

BOB FLORENCE

There is a construction crane on the store site. Steel beams are going up. Winterhalt, the business manager for Good Food Junction, has a dream. "What I envision," said Winterhalt, "is people coming into a well-stocked, clean store with

trained staff. It offers fair prices, fresh produce, fresh meat. I want people to say 'Wow. This is nice. This is going to work. This is our neighbourhood.' ■

Bob Florence is a Saskatoon freelance writer

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Offices benefit from established structure

From Page 6

its established structure and expertise. “Most of what we’re looking at doing is sharing this resource with all of the different parts of the university and we do a lot of that in Advance-

ment. We’re already organized that way and oriented in that regard.”

There is already a culture of outreach and engagement on campus, she said, thanks to its priority within integrated planning. “I think that we’ve

had a history of strength in this area, and that is going to continue. These offices are going to provide a little more visibility to it and going to provide some support for people in doing their work around outreach and engagement as well.”

Enhancing Aboriginal relationships

Candace Wasacase-Lafferty has spent 10 years in various roles at the University of Saskatchewan but being part of the new Office of Aboriginal Engagement at English River “is the most exciting initiative I’ve ever been a part of.”

The newly named director of the office said its “presence on an urban reserve says that the university is committed to Aboriginal engagement for the long haul.” The office will provide an important bridge between First Nations and Métis communities and the U of S, she said, and will give the university the chance “to look deeper into and be part of the communities. There may be cultural values and ways of conducting relationships that the university can learn. There are so many positive things about our communities that we can teach Saskatchewan.”

Wasacase-Lafferty, who was born on the Kahkewistahaw First Nation in the Qu’Appelle Valley, said, she sees her role as “promoting the university and all its possibilities through engagement with First Nations and Métis communities. It’s about building Aboriginal capacity on campus and leveraging that capacity in Aboriginal communities. My approach will be ‘how can I support your plans?’ because I want this role to be an enhancement of what already exists.” ■



Wasacase-Lafferty

2011 Storaasli Lecture

- Nov. 23, 7 pm, Lutheran Theological Seminary Library, the 2011 Storaasli Lecture will be delivered by Jonathan A. Draper, professor of New Testament at the School of Religion and Theology, University of Kwa-Zulu Natal (Pietermaritzburg, South Africa). His lecture is entitled Pierre Bourdieu and the Role of the Spirit in Some Zulu/Swathi African Initiated Churches. For more information, visit <http://luther.usask.ca>

Philosophy in the Community

- Dec. 14, 7 pm, The Refinery, 609 Dufferin Ave., Ken Norman, College of Law, presents How Should We Think About Hate Speech?

Microbiology and Immunology Seminars

- Thursdays, 4-5 pm, Room A226 Health Sciences Building
- Nov. 24, Jeremy Lee, Biochemistry, presents Demented peptides

Chemistry Seminars

- 4 pm, Room 159 Thorvaldson
- Nov. 18, Edward Knaus, emeritus professor, Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, University of Alberta, presents Drug design concepts and strategies to

develop nitric oxide (NO) and nitroxyl (HNO) donor cyclooxygenase and/or lipoxigenase inhibitors to treat arthritis and circumvent adverse cardiovascular complications

Geography and Planning Colloquia

- Fridays at 3:30 pm in Kirk Hall 146
- Nov. 18, John Courtney presents Drawing boundaries: Canada’s latest attempt at representation-by-population
- Nov. 25, Norma J. Stewart presents Retention of RNs in rural and remote Canada: Research ground for nursing and geography
- Dec. 2, Ian Fleming presents Landfills: Liability or Landform?

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Coming Events

Next OCN: Friday, December 2
Deadline: Thursday, November 24
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Many career highlights for Library employees

From Page 1

“We go everywhere in the world looking for a book, a publication, a source somebody wants,” said Birns. And those searches are not always easy. She even went so far as to take a Spanish course to help her in her quests for Spanish materials “but they’re really difficult to obtain, not because of the language but because of the country of origin.”

Owchar has spent her entire Library career in the cataloguing department which now functions within a department called description and discovery. When she started, part of her work involved typing labels for materials on a manual typewriter, and then ironing them on, but those days are long gone. “We used to have 10 librarians and 15 library assistants but now I have three and a half staff because we send a lot of our material out now to be catalogued by a vendor.”

A lot of time was also spent managing the Library’s enormous card catalogue, another aspect of the job that has disappeared. “When you think about it now, we used to spend an enormous amount of time filing, and then pulling it out again,” said Birns. Owchar said she has seen the catalogue evolve from an individual card for each item to an efficient online search system that continues to improve; the Library is currently testing U-Search which will further enhance the ability of patrons to find exactly what they are looking for.

All three agree that tech-

nology, more than anything, has changed their jobs. Birns pointed out that the internet has revolutionized the search for Library materials “because we go anywhere and everywhere to find them,” and that includes Amazon. A university library buying books off Amazon? “They’re slick and they’re fast,” she said.

Often speed is of the essence, added Owchar, and Amazon is fast. “When people request material, they often want it now, not a week from now. It’s up to us and the people we work with to provide that material as quickly as possible. Ultimately we’re here to serve this university, the city and really the whole province.”

Online catalogues at libraries around the world have made it easier for McFauld to fulfil inter-library loan requests and while she enjoys the thrill of the hunt, “I feel a little luckier than Tammy or Iris in that I get to interact with the university community a bit more, with students, faculty and staff.” One of her favourite interactions over the years as been with a faculty member who uses inter-library loans frequently.

Carefully protecting his identity, McFauld said “he often tries to stump us, the borrowers.” His most interesting request was for a dog. Yes, a canine. “He apparently heard that some library in the U.S. had a ‘borrow a dog’, a real dog, and it was catalogued so he thought he should ask for a dog.” McFauld in fact found the dog at the Lillian Goldman Law Library at

Yale. Monty, a 21-pound border terrier mix with call number SF428.2.M66 2011, is described in the online catalogue as a legal therapy dog available to circulate for 30-minute periods.

“I contacted the library. I knew it was probably impractical to ship the dog but I thought he might be interested in the circulation statistics. I know I was, but they didn’t answer. I let him know they don’t share his sense of humour.”

Birns’ favourite acquisition story goes back a number of years and involves a request from the veterinary librarian for a book about small horses. “The book they were requesting was very obscure, hard to find and very expensive. It took us about three months to get it and when it arrived, we unpacked the box, took it out of all the wrapping and it was about an inch-and-a-half by an inch-and-a-half. It was a scam,” not unheard of in the publishing world. “And we paid \$350 for that book!”

A career highlight for Owchar was a trip she and Birns made to Winnipeg to meet with the university’s cataloguing vendor. What made it special was that the Library paid their expenses. “As CUPE employees, we don’t have those kinds of opportunities so it was great.”

Another was an invitation from the dean to be part of the team that developed the Library’s first integrated plan. “I really value the respect the current dean has for people at all levels. It helps everyone feel they have a part to play in the direction of the Library and

really opened up the doors in terms of communication.”

For all three, it will be the people they will miss the most when they retire. Birns and Owchar both work on the sixth floor, part of a strong team “that celebrates the least little thing,” said Birns. “We’re known for our food days when everyone contributes and everyone comes,” Owchar added. McFauld nodded and relayed the message that travels through the Library like wildfire – “Sixth floor has food!”

All three women have

made plans for their retirement, including travel, time with family and even new kinds of paid work. But McFauld admitted, like the others, to having misgivings about her decision to retire “and part of that is keeping up with technology. I don’t want to get stupid.”

“In the Library, technology is always changing so I still have my Library privileges and I’m going to come and use the resources. I’ve told my friends ‘you’re still going to see me here but I just won’t be doing work for you.’” ■

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The View from Here



MARK FERGUSON

What was a full-fledged laboratory in the basement of the Physics Building when A.H. Joel occupied it around 1923 is now the general office of Information Technology Services. Room 56 is a bit smaller due to the addition of some dividing walls but Lori Weitzel, ITS administrative assistant, and other visitors can still see many of the room's features that have remained unchanged from Professor Joel's time.



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