



On Campus News

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Rethinking the student experience

College of Arts and Science looks to renew first-year program

by COLLEEN MACPHERSON

The process of improving first-year programming in the College of Arts and Science is really one of deciding what a college graduate should have experienced and learned during their time in the college, and working backwards from there.

According to the report of the college's First Year Review Steering Committee, that student will have, among other assets, strong communication skills, will think critically, will be a world-minded citizen, will understand the socio-cultural position of Aboriginal Peoples

in Canada, and will have had a taste of multiple arts and science disciplines. Lesley Biggs, a history professor and chair of the committee, said this kind of learning outcomes model is being used sporadically but needs to be "part of our culture in the college."

The first year review committee was set up two years ago and charged with finding ways to reinvigorate the first-year experience of arts and science students with an eye to improving recruitment and retention. Step one, said

Biggs, was an exploration of the growing body of scholarship around teaching and learning, and best practices in first-year education. What the committee found was that the college's distribution model, that is the credit unit requirements for a general liberal arts education, "is considered fairly outdated. It does give students a sense of the breadth of what's available in arts and science but I think we can develop a more systematic and interdisciplinary approach to the model."

Having set out what an

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"I would like the college to be a destination point known for its exciting, innovative undergraduate programs,"

Lesley Biggs

arts and science student should experience, a list that has been adopted as college program goals in its third integrated plan, the committee report goes on to recommend three strategies for implementation, the most

ambitious being curriculum renewal.

Biggs said that for many, but not all departments, the task ahead is examining their

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Making a difference in the world

Provost's academic address 2012

Editor's Note

Because this issue of *On Campus News* was printed prior to the provost's academic address, quotes from the address were taken, with permission, from Brett Fairbairn's speaking notes and may vary slightly from his delivery.

As the University of Saskatchewan approaches the milestone of a one-billion-dollar budget, Provost and Vice-President Academic Brett Fairbairn used his fourth annual academic address to explore whether universities provide value for that level of investment by making a

positive difference in the world. And his conclusion was an unequivocal yes.

"How are people's lives changed because of the distinct things that a university like ours does?" asked Fairbairn at the start of his address entitled *What Difference Do Universities Make?*

delivered Feb. 9 in Convocation Hall. Describing universities as "the key social institution of our times," the provost argued universities and the ideas they generate shape society and produce the people who influence the debates that matter—"Knowledge as power; self-governing service to the public interest."

Universities exist in a dynamic time of competing and changing perceptions and expectations, he said. As a result, there are those who believe the institu-

tions have moved away from what has traditionally been viewed as the ideal. The first view the provost addressed is that universities are the preserve of the privileged, "or alternately, that we have been inundated by the mediocre masses."

The connection between universities and privilege is an old one based in truth, he said, "and goes back to a day when it was unequivocally true." Another

See Universities, Page 2

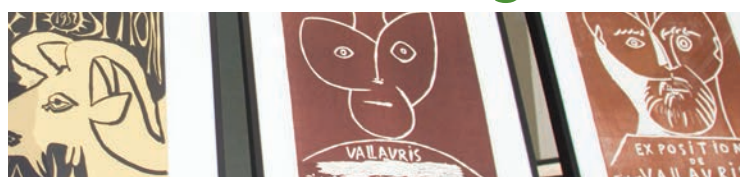


Fairbairn

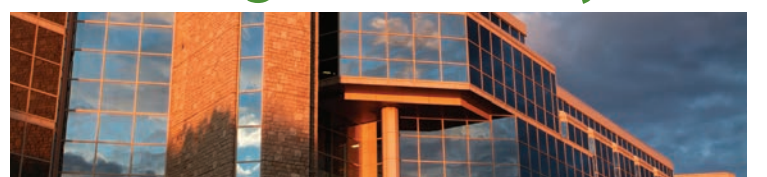


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Universities must be aware of their responsibilities to society: Fairbairn

From Page 1

old idea is that diverse enrolment dilutes standards. By defining learning outcomes for students and by strategically managing enrolment, universities can address “the kernel of truth in concerns about quality and access.”

The suggestion universities are not fulfilling their role because of corporatization was the second view the provost addressed. He acknowledged that universities, by necessity, have features of

“We have the responsibility together to decide what being a university means in today’s context.”
Brett Fairbairn

corporations—specialized staff, professional financial management, strategic planning—but these are features of all modern organizations, “selective adaptations that are appropriate to our needs and circumstances.” Both universities and penitentiaries

have locks on their doors but that does not make a university a prison.

“Our not-for-profit orientation toward the public interest, combined with openness and plurality of purposes and stakeholders, gives a university an

inner life that is distinctly different from virtually any other corporation.”

Then there is the suggestion universities have become undemocratic, but Fairbairn argued democracy is “never something that will be achieved fully. It is,” he went on, “a value system that we strive to put into practice under changing conditions” but that always involves open exchanges. “Understood in this way, we can see the university as a fundamentally and distinctly democratic institution.”

The provost then moved on to the notion that universities neglect students in favour of research. He pointed out that teaching and research are necessary complementary activities, “and we need to arrange our time to include both of them. To be passionate about the kind of teaching that distinguishes universities means being passionate about knowledge and its discovery.”

Finally, Fairbairn turned to the view that universities have become too expensive for society to sustain, a notion that has grown from issues like out-of-control health-care costs, economic downturns and Canadian academic salaries that are among the highest in the world.

Universities require immense resources and “I see no way around four large tasks in our near future,” he said. Included on that list of tasks is focusing resources “on those few chosen things that are most important,” economizing, diversifying sources of revenue and ultimately, remaining reliant on huge levels of public support. “We will need to justify that support by showing the ways in which a university like ours continually makes a difference.”

At their heart, universities are about ideas that transform lives, said Fairbairn, returning to his initial question, and at the core of that notion are creativity

and “the transformative impact on society.”

Understanding the ancient idea that knowledge is power, Fairbairn said that “like many universities, we have done too little to create a pervasive culture of creativity, and we have particularly done too little to document and explain the external impact of what we do.”

That said, he mentioned several success stories connected with the U of S, life- and society-altering work in agriculture, vaccine development, human reproduction, history, law and other disciplines. “Our university prominently features established, signature areas of research that have been inspired in part by Saskatchewan realities and in which this province can make a global contribution.”

Success also comes in the “spirit of discovery” U of S graduates take with them into the world. “It should not surprise us that people who have undergone a challenging education do better in life, in aggregate, in every measurable way ... (and) young innovators mentored here have done remarkable things.”

Universities make a difference, Fairbairn concluded, but the institutions must be aware of their responsibilities. Other organizations like governments, corporations and even communities depend on universities for leadership, expertise and ideas, but universities will never be without their skeptics and critics. Listen carefully, but do not “simply accept their prescriptions,” he advised.

“In an age when knowledge, more than ever, is power, we should not shrink from our mission both to create knowledge and to democratize it.” ■

The complete text of Brett Fairbairn’s 2012 academic address along with a video can be found on his website www.usask.ca/vpacademic under the heading Our Office.

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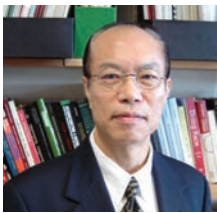
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Earned Degrees and the Distinguished Graduate Supervisor Award



■ Peter Li is the most recent recipient of the Earned Doctor of Letters degree.



■ Soledade Pedras received an Earned Doctor of Science degree at the spring convocation ceremony.



■ Adjunct Professor (Biology) Robert Clark’s exceptional contribution to graduate training has earned him the Distinguished Graduate Supervisor Award.

The College of Graduate Studies and Research is calling for nominations for the **Distinguished Graduate Supervisor Award**. The deadline for nominations is March 1.

The College of Graduate Studies and Research is also calling for nominations for the earned **Doctor of Letters** (D.Litt.) and earned **Doctor of Science** (D.Sc.) degrees to be awarded to graduates of the University or to members of faculty. Drs. Li and Pedras are the latest additions to a list of alumni and faculty who have been recognized for a lifetime of outstanding achievement based on their research, scholarly or artistic work. These are the highest degrees granted by our University and honour our most accomplished colleagues.

Nominations, including a covering letter providing a rationale for the award, should be forwarded to the Dean, College of Graduate Studies and Research, University of Saskatchewan, 105 Administration Place, Saskatoon SK S7N 5A2

Contact Bea Reid for information at bea.reid@usask.ca
■ www.usask.ca/cgsr



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Sharing the ecology message

✦ COLLEEN MACPHERSON

Melanie Elliott may have the best office mates on campus – they're extremely quiet, take up little space and never tie up the phone.

But Sniffles the garter snake, Sally and Mander the tiger salamanders, the collection of unnamed stick bugs and the big brown bats named Batrick and Elizabat are key members of Elliott's team in providing ecological education to the community, education that is centred largely on the message that "wildlife needs a place to live."

Elliott, who is the program manager for ecological education in the Centre for Continuing and Distance Education, brings both biology and education degrees, years of experience, and of course her animals to her work with school children, teachers and adults, work that ranges from in-class programs and the very popular Ecology Camps for Kids to tours that take people to very special, and often endangered, environments around the globe. While the ecology message is an important one, she also recognizes her role in demystifying the science and the university.

“Children don't hold back – they verbalize their excitement.”

Melanie Elliot

"I often feel like an interpreter," said Elliott. "I start with the academic and make the knowledge available to people."

Elliott got her start in ecology education in 1991 with the Saskatoon Zoo Society, a position she accepted after working some 10 years as a research technician at the U of S. "I gave up the research for teaching really, teaching volunteers, developing tours for school groups. I developed a Grade 1 program for the public school division and I just loved working with teachers."

Moving to what was then the university's Extension Division, Elliott set up Ecology Camps for Kids, a program now almost 20 years old, and ran field trips and workshops. "So much of our education is theoretical. I wanted people to learn about nature on the ground."

Her work in and around Saskatoon focuses largely on

the conservation of wetlands and grasslands, a story she tells through the lens of the plants and animals that inhabit those environments. Children, she said, "know habitat is a big problem" and she leads them through building bird and bat houses, and discussions of endangered species. "All of this ties into waste reduction so I set up a worm composter for the classroom and get into their recycle bin and teach them how to make new paper. Children realize 'Oh yes, we can do something that makes a difference.'"

Elliott works mainly with Grades 1-6 students and does about 30 workshops a year in classrooms. Her presentations are very closely tied to curricula "but you can make ecology fit almost anywhere." In terms of job satisfaction, a highlight is always "the nerdy kid who limpets onto you and says 'This is the best day of my life.' Children don't hold back – they verbalize their excitement."

And nothing is more exciting for the kids, either in the classroom or at ecology camp, than meeting her animals although they are not the cutest of creatures – "I'm going with underdogs here." The salamanders and snake have met thousands of kids but it is the bats that really pique their interest. Elliott's interest in these mammals has actually made her the go-to person in Saskatoon when bats need rescuing. She has collected well over 100 bats around the city, many of which are knocked down by house cats.

"The vet college can only do so much with these animals," she said. "There's the rehabilitation part and the release part



Melanie Elliot and one of her salamanders

COLLEEN MACPHERSON

because the real goal is that they're returned to the wild." To help, Elliott has developed a hibernation protocol in her home cold cellar that allows her to safely house bats until mosquitoes appear in the spring and she can release them. While not protected by the province, she has a provincial permit to keep small animals, and a permit from the university's animal care committee because she uses them for teaching.

When it comes to adult ecological education through tours, "we really focus on national parks and protected areas. We give lectures before we leave on the geography, the culture and history of the area and often on wildlife and bird identification. The whole point is to make sure everyone has a rich experience."

The most popular tour on her schedule is to Churchill, Manitoba, a place she has been to 20 times, in summer to see

Beluga whales and arctic nesting birds, and in fall to observe polar bears waiting on shore for the ice to form in Hudson Bay. There, and in destinations like Costa Rica, Elliott arranges accommodation at research facilities and finds opportunities to tap into the expertise of scientists working on site.

Inviting U of S faculty to participate in programs like ecology camps is another way Elliott works to "demystify the science." That and her keen awareness of the value of exposing kids to the university campus goes a long way in helping students make the transition to post-secondary life.

Elliott tells the story of being a high school student and taking a swim class at McMaster University. "I thought it was so cool to be on campus. I've had kids tell me 'I wasn't afraid when I started university because this was my ecology camp.'" ■

FROM THE ARCHIVES

A Mere Detail

✦ PATRICK HAYES, U OF S ARCHIVES

THE SHEAF

Follies Feature Talking Movie



The Sheaf, February 28, 1929.

The first feature film presented as a talkie was *The Jazz Singer*, released in October 1927. The first showing of a "genuine talking movie" in Saskatoon was in Convocation Hall on March 8, 1929. *A Mere Detail* was one of the main attractions on the programme of the Varsity Follies, the year-end variety show. The above image is a scene from the film. The plot involved three college boys who become heirs to a girls' high school. Other features of the variety night included the "snappy harmonies" of the Ukulele Band, singing and dancing, a melodrama presented by Emmanuel College, a farce performed by the students of the School of Medicine and a News-Reel of campus activities. ■

U of S joins Project Hero scholarship program

The University of Saskatchewan has joined Project Hero, a national scholarship program for children of Canadian Forces personnel killed during an international operation.

"There are close to 70 Canadian post-secondary institutions that take part in this program including SIAST and the University of Regina,"

explained David Hannah, associate vice-president of student affairs. The award will be equal to tuition and student fees for up to four years of full-time undergraduate study, plus an annual stipend of \$1,500 for up to four years to help offset additional costs of university attendance such as books and supplies, rent and

food.

The U of S has authorized an annual allocation of \$25,000 from the operating budget for this award, which was formally endorsed by the Scholarships and Awards Committee of Council.

Hannah said that the university had not yet had an applicant for the scholarship. ■

Next OCN deadline is February 23, 2012

Centre marks year of co-ops

by NORA RUSSELL

The University of Saskatchewan's Centre for the Study of Co-operatives is celebrating the United Nations International Year of Co-operatives 2012, proclaimed to recognize the contributions co-operatives make to the social and economic development of communities around the world.

The centre is making plans to acknowledge this milestone in the life of the co-op movement, which claims more than 18 million members in Canada and more than a billion members worldwide.

"This year offers an important opportunity to educate the public about the enormous role co-operatives play

in building communities, revitalizing economies, and creating jobs here in Canada and around the world," said Centre Director Lou Hammond Ketilson.

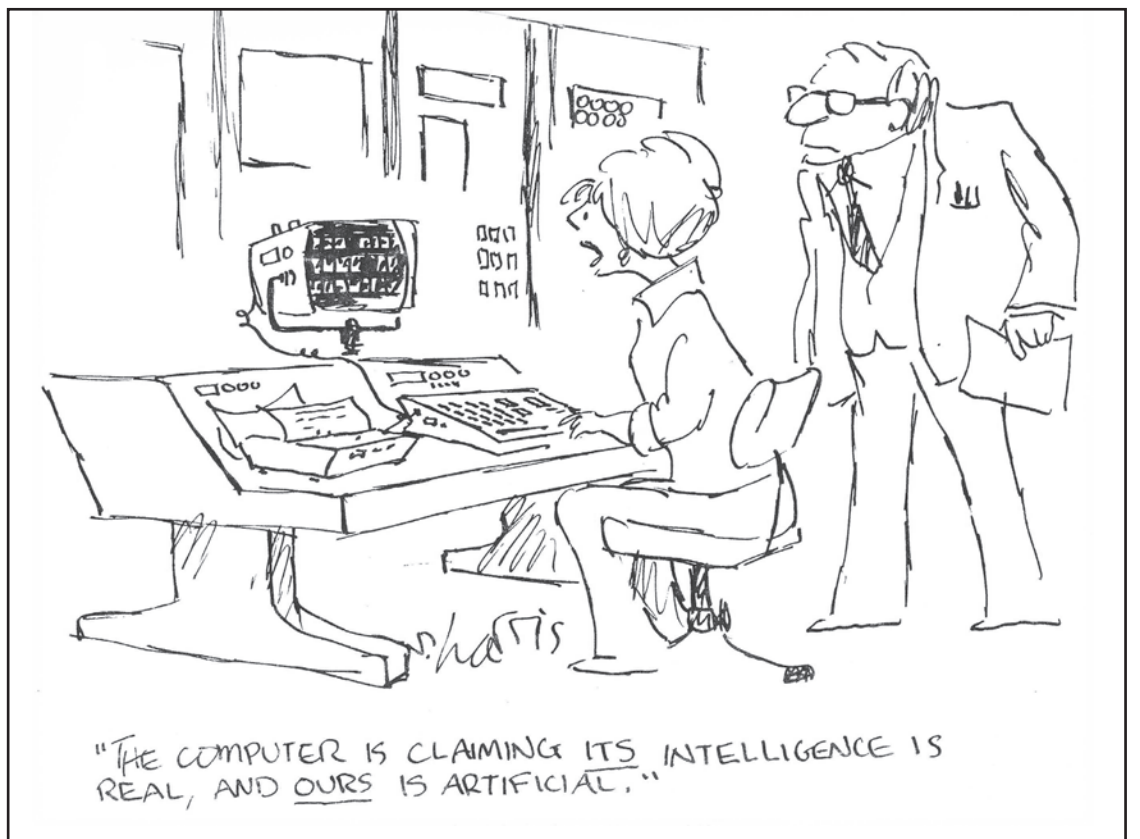
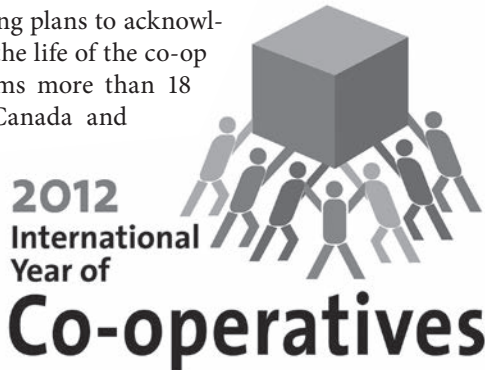
Activities kicked off Jan. 25 with the first in a series of seminars celebrating local, national and international co-operative achievements. At the seminar, Jean-Emmanuel Bouchard, president of the Quebec Federation of School Co-operatives, explained how his province's student co-ops are training the next generation of co-operators. Seminars in February and March will examine issues of gender equity in fair trade coffee co-operatives in Nicaragua, issues of gender equity and how the co-ops support forest ecosystems.

"The centre is also reconfiguring its museum exhibit *Building Community: Creating Social and Economic Well-Being* into components for circulation in small communities," said Hammond Ketilson. The smaller exhibits will tour Saskatchewan, Manitoba and northern Ontario throughout the year.

The year will wrap up with a major conference titled *Co-operating to Build a Better West*, to take place Nov. 1-3 in Saskatoon, she said. Presentations will consider how co-operatives can support local development, encourage participation and contribute to lasting prosperity in the context of economic, social and political realities.

More information about the centre's International Year of the Co-operative activities can be found at www.usaskstudies.coop

Nora Russell is publications and communications officer with the Centre for the Study of Co-operatives



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Antediluvian words transmogrify the language

In many ways, Wayne State University is very much like our own University of Saskatchewan.

Both institutions are located in the heart of major communities, Saskatoon for us and Detroit for Wayne State's main campus. The two universities have a comparable number of buildings but theirs are situated on almost 200 acres where as we have a bit more elbow room—about 1,800 acres inside our city limits. Wayne State boasts that it has the most beautiful urban campus in the United States, and I think that's a claim the U of S can rightly make here in Canada. Wayne State has the edge on students—about 32,000 to our 21,000—but we both have students from across our respective countries and from many, many countries around the world.

And when asked to describe the nature of the institution, both would invariably incorporate the word research as a descriptor. Wayne State is dedicated to preparing students for an interconnected global society and the contemporary urban environment while our research focus tends toward the natural and life sciences.

As I say, there are many similarities between the two universities, but there is one marked difference: Wayne State has the Word Warriors, and we don't.

Word Warriors has, for four years, made a concerted effort to raise the profile of some of the English language's most expressive but neglected words. In addition to presenting a word of the day on its website, Word Warriors also releases an annual top 10 list of words it thinks should be, and deserve to be, used more often. As the

website explains, some of the words have enjoyed their time in the sun, but have fallen out of favour while others have never really managed to gain a foothold in everyday language.

The 2012 list, prepared by Word Warrior editors with input from the public, contains some fabulous words, words that are precise, fun to pronounce and downright beautiful. I have two personal favourites on this year's list—Sisyphian, which I had the pleasure of hearing used in a sentence by one of our very own academics, and transmogrify, a term my boys bandied about when discussing a cardboard contraption they built in the basement. They picked it up from Calvin and Hobbes cartoons—thank you Bill Watterson.

So, straight from the Word Warriors, here is this year's list of words, complete with definitions and example sentences. I would love to see each used at least once in our next integrated plan.

Antediluvian: Antiquated; old-fashioned; out of date. Literally "before the flood," referring to the Biblical deluge. *This company's vacation policy is positively antediluvian, so I'm giving you three weeks off this year.*

Erstwhile: Former; bygone. Rampantly misused. *Roger had disturbing reasons to suspect that Rachel, his erstwhile lover, had hacked into his email accounts.*

Execrable: Atrocious; wretched; abominable. *Alice may have a Ph.D., but her spelling is execrable.*

Frisson: Thanks to French for this word meaning that sudden, involuntary shiver we may feel at times of great emotion. *Albert knew he'd be glad to see Victoria, but he wasn't expecting a powerful*

frisson of pleasure when he took her hand.

Parlous: Dangerous or risky. Variant of Middle English "perilous." *Prospects for Yazoo City grew increasingly parlous as the Mississippi's record flood rolled southward.*

Penultimate: Next to last. *Everyone's heard of the Last Supper, but the Penultimate Supper has been largely forgotten.*

Sisyphian: Actually or apparently endless and futile. After Sisyphus, doomed by the gods to roll a stone uphill, only to have it always roll back down. *Washington endured a Sisyphian nightmare of whipping raw recruits into shape, only to see them melt away when their one-year enlistments expired (Ron Chernow, in Washington).*

Supercilious: Contemptuous; disdainful; condescending. *I knew I was about to go into the tank socially when I noticed the supercilious way she was looking at my red shoes.*

Transmogrify: To change completely, usually grotesquely, in appearance or form. *So Gregor drifted off to sleep, never dreaming he was in a Kafka story and would transmogrify into a hideous insect overnight.*

Truckle: Submit obsequiously; be subservient; kowtow. *When I'm in the presence of a powerful person, my own concept of equality gets blurry and I have a regrettable tendency to truckle, if only to be polite (Ian Frazier, in Travels in Siberia).* ■

Ed

ocn Publishing Schedule

No.	Issue Date	Deadline Date
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13	March 16	March 8

ocn On Campus News

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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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Picasso prints augment art collection

Six prints by Pablo Picasso make a welcome addition to the University of Saskatchewan art collection, fitting in nicely with existing work by many contemporaries of the Spanish painter, sculptor, printmaker and ceramist who is considered one of the most influential artists of the 20th century.

“We have a number of prints, paintings and ceramics in our collection by close contem-



Archer

poraries of Picasso that parallel his work stylistically,” said Kent Archer, director and curator of the U of S art collection. “That provides important context for these new works.”

Frederick Mulder, an alumnus and private art dealer who is considered a world expert on Picasso prints, donated the six prints to the university Jan. 31. Three of the six are linocut posters, part of a series Picasso produced between 1951 and 1964 for the southern French town of Vallauris where he lived from 1948-1956. Known for its ceramics, arts and crafts, exhibitions and bullfights, the town played a large role in the development of Picasso’s linocut style and technique.

Five of the six prints were donated in honour of people significant to Mulder: Rudy Kratzen, professor emeritus; photographer Courtney Milne; Professor Emeritus Don Kerr, Mulder’s first professor at the



Frederick Mulder discusses his donated prints in Convocation Hall Jan. 31.

DAVID STOBBE

U of S; Peter Millard, a fellow alumnus; and U of S President Peter MacKinnon.

Archer said there are plans to exhibit the prints along with other recent acquisitions, and possibly to permanently locate them “in some relation to the people they’re in honour of.”

The prints will undergo an independent appraisal to determine their value, which Archer roughly estimated at about \$60,000.

Donations like Mulder’s are an important way for the university to acquire new works, said Archer. “We have a very small

acquisitions budget so this is one of the primary ways to build the collection. We have an acquisitions committee that considers all of the artwork offered to us and while we don’t accept everything, we do receive artwork valued in the neighbourhood of \$300,000-\$500,000 in gifts annually.” ■

U of S News Briefs

Donation to prostate research

The University of Saskatchewan Prostate Research Team has received \$26,000 from Motorcycle Ride for Dad (MRFD) for prostate research.

The funds will support the project that focuses on the development of improved diagnostic and treatment tools for prostate cancer in humans using a dog model and imaging at the Canadian Light Source. The research uses male dogs that have died from various causes, and that have been donated to the study from veterinary clinics.

MRFD is an organization that raises funds to support prostate cancer research and raise public awareness.

Heritage award for U of S

The U of S has been recognized by the City of Saskatoon’s Municipal Heritage Advisory Committee for its efforts to preserve and restore the historic aspects of campus.

The committee named the university the 2011-12 winner in the heritage space category of its heritage award program. The report from the panel of award judges noted that U of S facilities respect the institution’s original master plan “as a key document to guide development on a modern university campus.” The judges were also impressed with the preservation of various outdoor spaces on campus, and with the fact newer buildings on campus are constructed of materials similar to those used in the original buildings but with modern interpretations.

Entrepreneur-in-residence named

Local business person Michael Chubb has been named entrepreneur-in-residence (EinR) for 2012 by the U of S Industry Liaison Office, in conjunction with the College of Agriculture and Bioresources and the Western College of Veterinary Medicine.

In his new role, Chubb, who is general manager of Saskatoon Colostrum Company, will work with the colleges to uncover and evaluate commercialization opportunities.

The EinR program aims to create collaborations between businesses and the university that could lead to commercializing U of S researchers’ know-how and technology.

Accessibility, affordability report released

Regardless of their income status, parents who lack a post-secondary education are not likely to see their children pursue college or university studies.

That is the key finding in a U of S report entitled Accessibility and Affordability Report 2011 that looks at access to university education in Canada and Saskatchewan.

“The report clearly demonstrates the need to reach out to kids whose parents do not have degrees or diplomas, and mentor them at an early age,” said Brett Fairbairn, provost and vice-president academic. “If we are not in their elementary and high school classrooms providing support,

it will not matter how many bursaries or scholarships we make available—these young people simply won’t come to university.”

Saskatchewan has a large number of rural and Aboriginal youth who do not have family members with post-secondary education. With the release of this report, Fairbairn believes the university is ready to begin work on new initiatives to address the barriers.

A PDF copy of the Accessibility and Affordability Report 2011 is available at www.usask.ca/ip/access.

For more on these and other stories as well as photos, visit news.usask.ca



Photo by Alex MacNaughton

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Tuesday, March 6, 2012 at noon
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Pictured (l to r): Tillie Taylor, Frederick Mulder and Carol Greyeyes

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HONOURING OUR
 ALUMNI OF

 COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCE

Work started on renewal plans

From Page 1

sequencing of courses, course content, methods of assessment and methods of course delivery to ensure “the program goals for all majors fall in line with the college goals.” A key consideration will be interdisciplinary programming but “it’s not our intent that everyone turn themselves into pretzels to meet the program goals but rather that they ask the question, ‘are there opportunities (for change) we hadn’t thought of before?’ We want people to do this and to do it carefully. It’s a lot of work to re-align courses” so the target date for completing curriculum renewal is the end of the third planning cycle in 2015.

Other implementation strategies listed in the report include expanding Learning Communities to any first-year student interested in participating, and creating a welcoming and supportive environment for Aboriginal students. Work is already underway with the University Learning Centre on a business plan for broadening the availability of Learning Communities, said Biggs, and various transition programs for first-year Aboriginal students have been amalgamated within the college’s Aboriginal Student Achievement Program.

Speaking about the committee’s report, Peter Stoicheff, dean of the college, said his main objective “was to ensure the recommendations were very evident ... in our integrated plan, and they are. We are quite committed to seeing them through,” he said, adding

various kinds of resources will be needed to affect the change the college wants. Expertise, both internal and external, is one, as is time, particularly for members of a new Curriculum Innovation Steering Committee that will guide the renewal process.


“In terms of strictly financial resources, I don’t know what the exact cost implications will be,” Stoicheff said, but he does not expect major changes to the college offerings. “We can’t just keep adding” so the college will focus on finding “innovative way to make connections for students. How do we make use of the fact we have mathematicians and studio artists in the same college?”

Biggs echoed that thinking when asked what the College of Arts and Science might look like at the end of the curriculum renewal process.

“I would like the college to be a destination point known for its exciting, innovative undergraduate programs,” she said. “I would like to see signature or flag ship first-year programs, which could include, for example, courses on climate change taught by faculty from various disciplines. One of the committee members suggested a course called What is Beauty? that could be taught by someone from the fine arts but also a scientist. We need curriculum that energizes students. And I would like to see classes at the 200, 300 and 400 levels that are more interdisciplinary within divisions in the college and across divisions because the world in which we live doesn’t exist in disciplinary silos.” ■



**Lesley Biggs, chair of the First Year Review
 Steering Committee**

 COLLEEN MACPHERSON

Funding program builds connections

✍ LISA BUCHANAN

A funding program unique to the University of Saskatchewan is allowing researchers and students to pursue work around the world and, for one recipient, make an unexpected U of S connection.

“Last time I was in Uganda, something amazing happened,” says Adil Nazarali, professor of pharmacy. “I wanted to explore possible collaborations with the Mbarara University of Science and Technology (MUST) and was surprised to learn that the president of the university, Frederick Kayanja, is a U of S alumnus.”

Nazarali has been travelling to his native Uganda with graduate students Rick Lorenz and Eisha Grant to work with the Foundation for AIDS Orphaned Children along with veterinary medicine professor, Dr. Claire Card, and associate professor of nutrition and dietetics, Carol Henry. Backed by funding from the university’s Global Partners II (GPII) program, the team is assessing the needs and challenges faced by the roughly 1.2 million Ugandan children orphaned by AIDS.

In an area where the need for medical professionals is vast, Nazarali and Mbarara University are now developing an interprofessional course that will see U of S students spend six weeks in Uganda visiting a health site where they will learn about the Ugandan health care system and health management, and develop leadership skills.

GPII began in 2008 as a partnership between the U of S Office of the Vice-President Research and the International Development Research Centre

(IDRC), which provided just over \$212,000 of the nearly \$400,000 budget. The remaining funds were raised within the university. The program has funded 33 projects, including nine graduate students.

Laurel O’Connor, assistant director of research services in the International Research Office, says that while many grant programs are highly competitive and involve large amounts of money for research already underway, GPII provided grants of up to \$10,000 in “seed money” – small amounts needed by researchers to start the relationships that help get things off the ground.

This program, hosted and managed by the U of S, is serving as a pilot for the IDRC. The U of S is the only university to participate in this program to date.

Funding recipient Dr. Ron Siemens, a clinical assistant professor of pediatrics, appreciates the flexibility offered by the program.

“The joy of the funding is that we were able to do what we needed to do when we got on the ground in Africa. You can’t anticipate everything and this funding allowed us the necessary flexibility,” he says. Siemens is helping a new university in Mozambique develop community-based curricula and training in research principles for medical students.

Another recipient of GPII funding, Donna Rennie, professor in the College of Nursing, travelled with Josh Lawson, assistant professor of medicine, to Poland, Belarus and Ukraine where they are conducting asthma research.

For them, the GPII funding led to further in-kind donations in support of their research. The opportunity to take these preliminary steps in international research can lead to meetings that would not have happened without travelling, said Rennie. ■

Lisa Buchanan is a graduate student intern in the U of S Office of Research Communications.

Pharmacy professor Adil Nazarali used GPII funding to visit Uganda where he works with orphaned children.

PHOTO SUBMITTED





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College centennial focuses on the future

✍ KIRA GLASSCOCK

According to Dean Mary Buhr, the College of Agriculture and Bioresources' centennial is as much about celebrating the future as it is the past.

"The centennial gives us the opportunity to highlight what the college has accomplished in the past and that then forms a foundation from which we can talk about where we are going in the future," said Buhr. "When you look at how much the college has changed over the past 100 years, you recognize that it will probably have to change an equivalent amount in the next 100 years – and it will always be to address the needs of the province and the world in all the things that constitute agriculture and bioresources."

Centennial celebrations are well underway at the College of Agriculture and Bioresources with a kick-off and an all-years alumni reunion held at the



Buhr

beginning of January. The next event is an open house on June 22 showcasing research and innovation at the college. Buhr indicated that the open house would be an important event for the college as it "gives us the chance to show the university campus, the community, industry and our alumni, who we are and what we have become.

"Most people in the western

world hear the term agriculture and understand by that farming and form a mental picture of someone standing in a field with a pitchfork but they don't understand the breadth of what agriculture is and they don't feel related to it all," she continued. "Agriculture is also policy and business models, reclamation of damaged land, creating better feed for animals, designing healthy foods and being able to grow fuel and fibre and plastics on land that food crops can't use."

When the college undertook a name change in 2006 to become the College of Agriculture and Bioresources, it was to better reflect the scope of research and teaching at the college. Buhr hopes that the open house will provide some clarity to modern agriculture, and help people to see that agriculture is all around them, "in farms, yes, but also in cold-



“The students are the future and we must never lose sight of that.”

Mary Buhr

tolerant strawberries, in young entrepreneurs and fuel from cow poop, and healthy people, plants, animals and environments.”

In September, the centennial celebrations will continue on with a barbeque, complete with cake, to celebrate with the students who Buhr points out are the most important resource of the college.

"The students are the future and we must never lose sight of that. Yes, we do the research but we are also providing students with the wealth of knowledge that the world so desperately needs to make a reasonable future for itself – and that's the most important thing we can do."

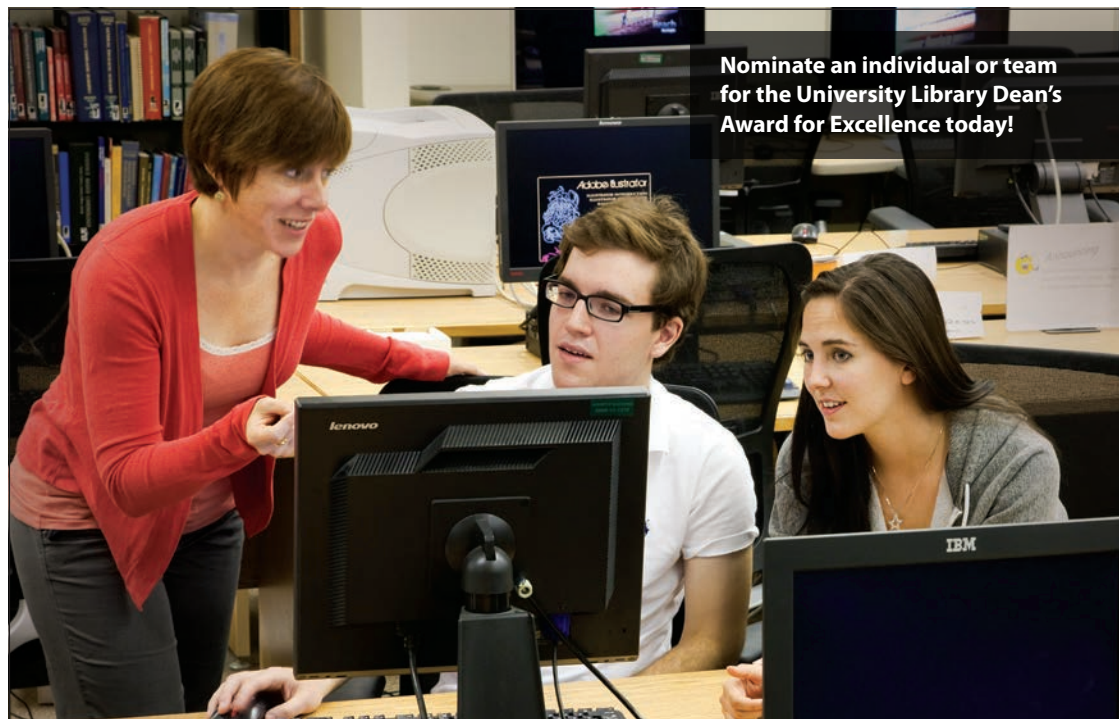
Buhr suggests that the next 100 years in agriculture and bioresources will be anything but boring. With issues like a global need for food security and climate change, the college will have much to contribute. She thinks the best plan is to

be proactive.

"Whatever we do, whatever crops or products or production methods we develop, will be useful somewhere in the world. I think we need to prepare as best we can for the kind of variations that we expect are coming, and then plan well enough to be able to adapt to the unexpected variations that come our way."

Buhr would like to see the college "support the province as it moves into expanded use of resources, expanded in both the sense of doing more things with resources that we have, and the sense of properly using more of the land base that we have and using it in a more sustainable fashion. The environmental piece is key and that is because we all need to be cognitive that our practices be such that we are giving as much back, if not more, than we are taking out." ■

Kira Glasscock is communications co-ordinator in the College of Agriculture and Bioresources



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Completed nomination forms must be marked confidential and submitted to the Library Executive Assistant no later than the last working day in March.

library.usask.ca/info/initiatives/deansaward.php

 UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN
University Library

Consumer Services to end cigarette sales

As of May 1, university-operated retail outlets on campus will no longer sell cigarettes.

Greg Fowler, director of Consumer Services, said the decision to stop selling cigarettes at the Tuck Shop, the North 40 in the Agriculture Building and at Innovation Place was made after much discussion. One argument was that smokers need to be able to purchase cigarettes somewhere on such a large campus. "On the other side was the fact we wanted to continue our health focus, and that carried the day,"

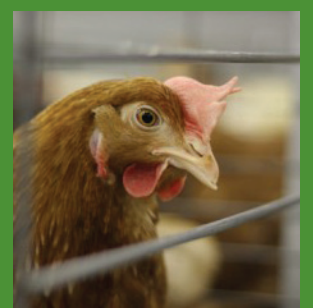
said Fowler.

The decision is in line with the commitment Consumer Services makes to environmental and social responsibility in its integrated plan for 2012-15, Fowler added. The proposal to discontinue cigarette sales was discussed with the U of S Students' Union and other groups, he said, "and what I see is support for the decision."

Cigarettes will continue to be sold at the Mac's Convenience Store in Lower Place Riel. ■

For more news, photos and comments visit us online.

news.usask.ca



Where in the world is the U of S?

✍ LISA BUCHANAN

A new online map to be posted Feb. 13 will allow members of the University of Saskatchewan community to see what their colleagues are up to in every corner of the globe.

The map, which shows U of S connections in countries around the globe, is a joint project of the International Office and International Research Office, along with the Spatial Initiative, provider of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) services to campus. Created using GIS, a computer-based technology that manipulates, analyzes and displays digital geospatial data, the map will keep itself up to date by using databases to track the university's research activity, student mobility including exchanges, and agreements with other institutions.

"Through the GIS map, we

hope to increase the numbers of connections between U of S researchers working in the same parts of the world that will lead to deeper levels of involvement and better sustainability of our partnerships," says Tom Wishart, special advisor on international initiatives.

Leigh-ellen Keating, director of the International Office, says, "Our researchers have a lot of international activity going on, from field research to prestigious fellowships, but we didn't have a means of tracking all of these projects and accomplishments." The map will be accessible at <http://spatial.usask.ca/international> and on the International Office website. ■

Lisa Buchanan is a graduate student intern in the U of S Office of Research Communications.



Leigh-ellen Keating, director of the International Office, and Scott Bell, director of the Spatial Initiative and professor of geography and planning, display the international GIS map to be launched on Feb. 13.

SUBMITTED

New calendar includes day off for students

✍ KRIS FOSTER

Changes are coming for the next academic calendar: the number of days between the last day of classes and the first day of exams next year will be reduced by one, and students will get an extra day off before Thanksgiving.

University Registrar Russ Isinger has nothing against Christmas, but he does blame the holiday season combined with 2012 being a leap year for reducing by three the number of days on which final exams can be scheduled. "It's a leap year and every holiday seems to land on bad days," said Isinger of the 2012/13 academic calendar. "We normally have 15 to 16 days to schedule exams on, but for term one in 2012, we will only have 13 days to schedule exams."

So to introduce a bit of flexibility into a tight schedule, University Council approved a reduction in the amount of time between the last day of classes

and the first day of exams, he explained. "It used to be at least two days; now it is between 24 to 48 hours. We have made the commitment that in the future we won't schedule (an exam) within 24 hours if we don't have to."

Throughout consultation with colleges and University Student Council (USC), Isinger said the proposed policy change did not receive a lot of pushback. "We have always tried to build the best exam schedules for students, but losing those days and still having around 75,000 individual exams to schedule made it too tight for term one. We lost three exam days. It is just a wonky year that hasn't happened since 1984 and people understood that."

In discussions about the policy change, he continued, it was clear from student feedback that there is a preference to get

out earlier for the Christmas holidays, "so reducing time between classes and exams was the way we could ensure that. For that reason, and because we release the exam schedule well in advance, usually in late September or early October, we didn't get a lot of pushback on this change."

Isinger does sympathize with students who have "heavy front-loaded schedules and we will work to get the best spread possible, but getting out early for the holidays seems to be compensation."

Another change approved by Council at its Jan. 26 meeting was the introduction of a fall reading day for students only starting in 2012.

The impetus behind this change was to create more balance between the two terms, Isinger explained. "The break in the second term is appreciated

and a similar break in fall would give student a chance to catch up, relax or travel as well."

The new reading day will land on the Friday preceding Thanksgiving, creating a four-day weekend. "We couldn't find an entire week in the schedule because we need a certain number of teaching days in each term. An entire week would be too many days to make up, meaning we have to start classes in August or end later than usual. A one-day break was manageable and we were able to get the requisite number of teaching days in the calendar year."

Other universities in Canada have a fall break for students, he continued, and it is something that has been brought up at the U of S on numerous occasions. "We finally got the ball rolling by talking to all the colleges and they were enthusi-



Isinger

astic, as were the students on the USC."

The university will still be open on the new reading day. "It's just for students. They won't have classes; the rest of us will have to come in, but at least we will have shorter lines at Tim Horton's," he added with a laugh. ■

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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.

Jan. 23-29

- Officers issued the following tickets:
 - 1 for speeding
 - 1 for smoking while in a vehicle with a minor
 - 3 for operating an unregistered motor vehicle
 - 2 for disobeying a stop sign
 - 1 for disobeying a traffic control device
- A driver was suspended for 24 hours and charged with operating an unregistered motor vehicle and having no driver's license.
- A second driver was suspended for 24 hours and charged with drive without due care and attention.
- A third driver was suspended for 24 hours and charged with having no driver's license.
- Marijuana was seized from an on-campus residence.
- A male was arrested on an outstanding warrant.
- Two pairs of shoes were stolen from a locker in PAC.
- A wallet containing ID, credit cards and cash was stolen from a locker in PAC.
- A wallet was stolen from an office in STM. There is a suspect in this matter. File is still under investigation.
- An iPad was stolen from the Murray Library. It had been left unattended.
- A locker in the Agriculture Building was broken into and contents, including cell phone, credit cards and keys, were stolen.
- A locker in Spinks Addition was broken into and a backpack containing credit cards, cash and an iPod was stolen. The backpack was later recovered in a washroom; however, contents of any value were missing.
- A female was detained by campus staff for shoplifting in a campus retail shop. After returning some items to the store clerk, she managed to evade the clerk.
- Graffiti was reported in washrooms at the Diefenbaker Building.
- Officers responded to a report of a natural gas odor at Emmanuel and St. Chad. SaskEnergy attended and found a small leak in a release valve, which was then fixed.

Fredeen Seminar

- Feb. 16, 3 pm, Canada Room, Diefenbaker Building, Jannie Leung presents the 2012 F.J.H. Fredeen Memorial Scholarship Seminar entitled Making the Invisible Count: Gender Equity in a Fair Trade Coffee Co-operative in Nicaragua

Fine Arts Research Lecture

- Feb. 11, 7:30 pm, Quance Theatre, Anna Boyden, term appointee in the Dept. of Music, and Darrin Oehlerking, assistant professor of music, present Intertextuality in Charles Ives' Country Band March – A Lecture Recital in collaboration with the U of S Wind Orchestra

Annual Sorokin Lectures

- Feb. 10, 2:30 pm, Arts 202, Min Zhou, UCLA, will present the Sociology Sorokin Seminar entitled Segmented Assimilation: The Role of the Ethnic Community in Immigrant Education

Computer Science Seminar Series

- March 5, 3-5 pm, Thorvaldson 105, Saul Greenberg presents Proxemic Interactions: The New Ubicomp?

Chemistry Seminars

- 4 pm, Room 159 Thorvaldson
- Feb. 10, Michael Serpe, Department of Chemistry, University of Alberta, presents Fun with Poly(N-isopropylacrylamide) Microgel-Based Etalons

Grad Student Information Session

- Feb. 17, 9-11 am, GSA Commons, Shari Thompson, Student Employment and Career Centre, presents Developing Your Career Potential as a Grad Student. Register for this session at <https://sesd.usask.ca/students/register/408>

Show Business

- The Edwards School of Business is hosting Show Business: A Business and Society Film Series. Screenings take place in ES 18, Goodspeed Theatre from 5-7:30 pm.
- March 8, *Enron: Smartest Guys in the Room*
- April 5, *The Shock Doctrine*

Microbiology and Immunology

- Thursdays, 4-5 pm, B6 Health Sciences
- Feb. 16, Hughes Goldie, Microbiology and Immunology, presents Stationary-Phase Gene Regulation in *Escherichia coli* and implications for regulation of PEP carboxykinase
- March 1, Linda Chelico, Microbiology and Immunology, presents Restriction of HIV by the deoxycytidine deaminase APOBEC3G: determinants of deamination intensity
- March 8, Peter Howard, Microbiology and Immunology, presents Transport across the outer membrane of Gram negative bacteria; genetic and biochemical analysis of TonB
- March 15, Jack Gray, Biology, presents Neural correlates of adaptive behaviour: Big ideas from a microbrain
- March 22, Keith MacKenzie, Microbiology and Immunology presents An RNA-seq approach to 'translating' the dynamics of *Salmonella* biofilm development

BPBE 990 seminar

- Feb. 10, 4 pm, Room 2C71 Agriculture, panel discussion entitled the Ins-and-Outs of the Job Market for Graduate Students featuring panelists: Arvin Pirness, manager, market research, PotashCorp; Russell Lawrence, agronomist, Farmers of North America; James Nolan, associate professor and graduate chair; Metin Çakir, assistant professor and Van Vliet Chair; and Eric Micheels, assistant professor

Veterinary Microbiology Seminars

- 12:30 pm, VIDO Lecture Theatre
- Feb. 10, Rupali presents Everything you want to know about Zhangfei, AND Chunyan Li presents The function of regulatory dendritic cell in tolerance induction in asthmatic mouse model.
- Feb. 17, Xin Zhao presents on the interaction of peptide V with viral and cellular proteins AND Qi Wu Molecular pathogenesis of HBV HCV co-infection.
- March 2, Wojciech Dawicki on tolerogenic dendritic cells treatment reduces food allergy.

Law Guest Speaker Series

- Feb. 13, noon, MLT Lecture Theatre, College of Law, Adam Dodek, University of Ottawa Law School, presents Solicitor-Client Privilege 2.0: Challenges and Opportunities for the Privilege in the Wired World

Geography and Planning Colloquia

- Fridays at 3:30 pm in Kirk Hall 146
- Feb. 10, Eric Lamb presents High Arctic plant communities, plant-soil interaction and soil greenhouse gas emissions
- Feb. 17, Carmen Finnigan presents Biomass monitoring with the RADARSAT 2: Grassland National Park, SK
- March 2, Cristina Echevarria presents Economic Gender Equality (International Women's Day Public Lecture)
- March 9, Yelena Bird presents Breast cancer among Mexican women residing along U.S. border (Jane Jacobs Memorial Lecture)
- March 16, Amy Goodbrand presents Buffering influence of water storage in lakes and peatlands of the Western Boreal Forest
- March 23, Nadine Lemoine presents Exploring water governance in Northern Saskatchewan: Opportunities for a watershed council
- March 30, Courtney Fidler presents Arctic offshore oil and gas: Environmental management and strategic impact assessment


Submit Coming Events

Information for Coming Events will be accepted until 5 pm on deadline day.

Next OCN: Friday, Friday, March 2
Deadline: Thursday, Feb. 23

E-mail information to ocn@usask.ca, fax 966-6815 or use the web submission form at news.usask.ca


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news.usask.ca




GUEST SPEAKER:
Shawn Atleo
National Chief to the Assembly of First Nations

Wednesday,
February 15, 2012
7:30 p.m.


Convocation Hall, College Building
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Dear Professor Norgrove,
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As your student, I marvelled at how you asked the right questions at the right times. You built intrigue and suspense as you interrogated students for clues that you then helped us piece together to discover underlying patterns.
Your enthusiasm for constructing compelling exercises profoundly affected my life. Because of you, I have become a teacher, writer, and researcher, helping students to solve new accounting mysteries.
With deep admiration,
Fred Phillips,
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The View from Here




KRIS FOSTER

Not much has changed in the northwest end of the Bowl since January 1962, assuming you discount the copse of mature trees, construction of a Geology Building on the far right obscuring Thorvaldson, a couple of additional storeys added to the Arts Tower, Marquis Hall on the far left and a big new health science complex completely engulfing the original College of Medicine building. At least the snow is still white.



UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES A-628

Looking for ideas

We are already thinking about a feature for the back page in our 2012-13 publishing year. In the past years, we've highlighted art, architecture, oddities and this view from here. If there is something you would like us to feature in this space, send an email to ocn@usask.ca